

# If it's advice that you're looking for, then urine luck



PAUL  
KNOECHEL

Welcome, young people, to your first campus experience! Or, to greet you in your own dialect: "Word up, yo."

I can see that you've all been familiarizing yourself with campus—crowding up the bookstore, the hallways, the Quad, the buses, and the washrooms in the process. It's cool though, I don't mind. In fact, I never really like being the only person at the urinals. The whole process is so much better if someone's standing shoulder-to-shoulder with you, the stench of optimism and excitement palpable in the cramped space between us.

It's also totally cool that you're here to remind the older of us that even though our campus careers are ending, you've still got at least four years of partying and irresponsible sexual experiences ahead of you.

I'm just here to offer some friendly advice to all of you, which is in no way a bitter attempt to misdirect you and your collective trusting nature for my own benefit. Let the learning begin!

Now, I'm sure that you've been informed of the campus bars and the several food and liquor establishments that border campus, and you've probably thought it would be a rather jovial time if you had a beer at RATT

or a plate of wings at the Windsor. And who could blame you? Common sense would dictate that any place where you and your fellow students could congregate easily and quickly to socialize, eat, and drink would be simply marvellous. But I'm here to tell you not to waste your time.

**It's also totally cool that you're here to remind the older of us that even though our campus careers are ending, you've still got at least four years of partying and irresponsible sexual experiences ahead of you.**

You only eat and drink on campus if you're desperate. Beer is much better if you take a half-hour bus-ride to enjoy it, and food that's more expensive is naturally better. Not to mention that the further you drink from campus, the cooler you'll be, because it's only the real riff-raff of the University that drink nearby. Don't even stop to offer your condolences if you see me frequenting one or more of these businesses throughout the week.

If you're hanging around campus several hours a day, chances are you're going to need to use the lavatory from time to time. You may be contemplating finding a seldom-used facility

tucked away in the corner of a small building—and that's fine if you want to be mugged by roving toilet gangs.

It's a problem no one else wants to talk about, but if you use any but the few washrooms I will outline for your safety, you will regret it.

If you're on the West side of campus, only use ETL's main-floor washrooms. If you happen to be around central campus, SUB main floor is your only real safe haven. And if you're unfortunate enough to be on campus's east side, just use some bushes.

It's a rough time, I know, but fear not, for I'm single handedly patrolling these little-known and hidden areas to root out the gangs myself. I'll let you know when the coast is clear.

Lastly, it's important to know that everyone that has been here more than a year knows pretty much everything there is to know about university life. That means there's a wealth of knowledge and wisdom out there for you first-years that are willing to pony up some alcohol or caffeine to feed the addictions of the wise ones you'll see striding around campus.

Unlike the myriad of student services you can find around this institution that will demand kickbacks for doing their jobs, I'd be happy to share my expertise for a simple sextet of ale. I'm so selfless I amaze myself sometimes.

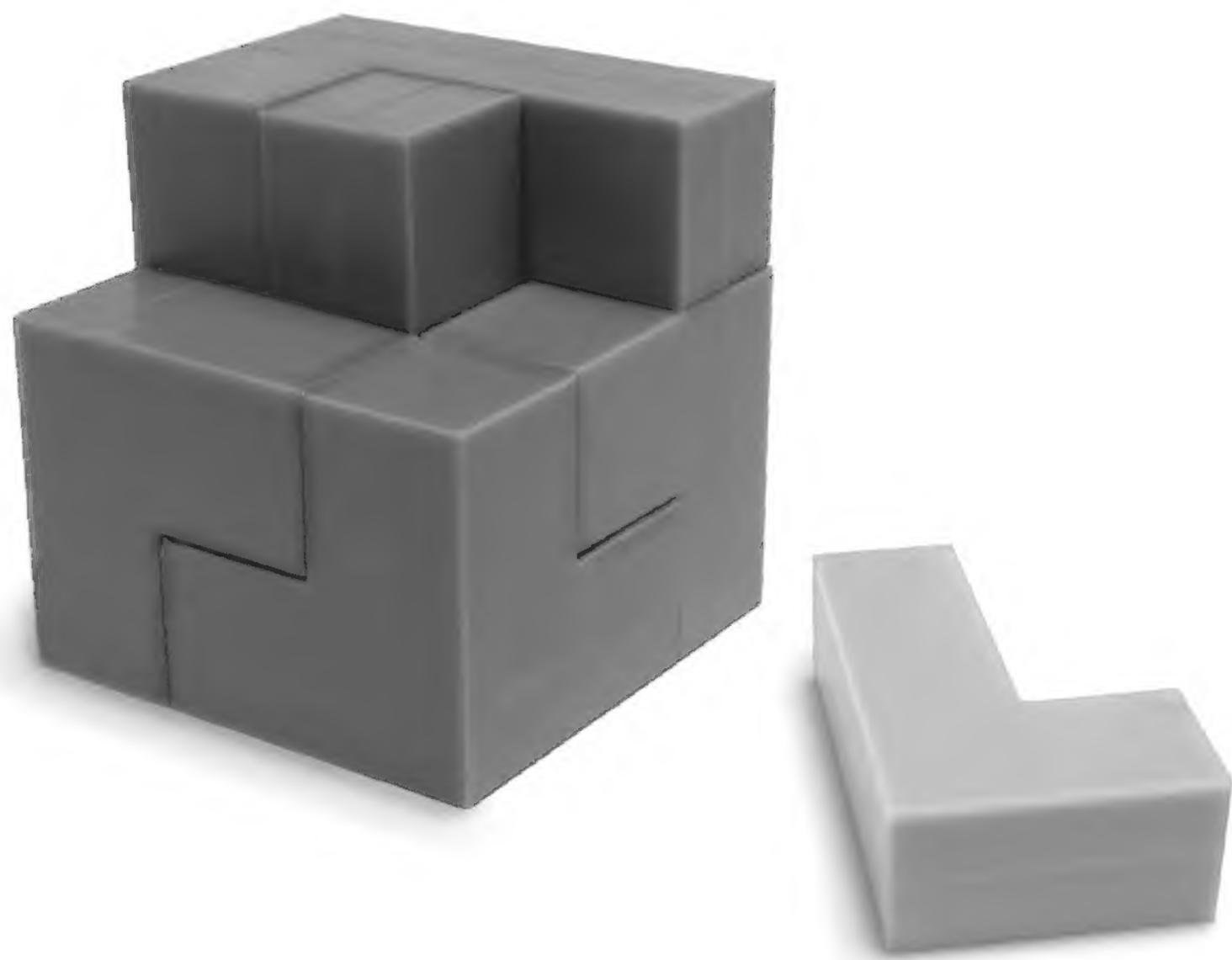
I could go on, but there are some things that it's better for you to figure out on your own. So I'll simply leave you all with a heartfelt "fuck off."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

**PEEING MACGUYVER STYLE** It's often better than using campus washrooms.

## U of A Scholarships are the solution!



UNIVERSITY OF  
ALBERTA

## Undergraduate Student Awards

The Student Awards Office has several scholarship competitions with fall deadlines. Each competition has its own set of criteria and eligibility requirements as outlined in the following descriptions.

For more information on these and other competitions please visit our website at [www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards) or the Student Awards Office at 1-80 Students' Union Building.

### Jason Lang Scholarship

Applicants must be Alberta residents who have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.2 on ★24 in their previous year of studies (September 2006 to April 2007).

**The deadline to apply is September 15, 2007**

### University of Alberta Undergraduate Academic Scholarship Competition

There are approximately 300 awards available through this competition. The awards range in value from \$500 to \$4,000 with some being Faculty specific and some open to students in any Faculty.

**The deadline to apply is September 30, 2007**

### Rhodes Scholarship

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or living in Canada; have been born between October 2, 1983 and October 1, 1989; and have received an undergraduate degree before attending Oxford (except medical students).

Applications are available at the Student Awards Office.

**The deadline to apply is October 1, 2007**

### Undergraduate Leadership Awards

There are approximately 50 available through this competition. The awards range in value from \$500 to \$12,500 with some being Faculty specific and some open to students in any Faculty.

Application information is available on the Student Awards website at [www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards).

**The deadline to apply is October 15, 2007**

### Important Changes to Students Awards

The Student Awards Office is currently implementing new software that will allow us to distribute awards more efficiently.

Below is a brief breakdown of what to expect:

1. No more paper cheques will be issued. Payments will be applied directly to tuition.
2. Students will be able to input banking information on Bear Tracks and have any refunds or payments go directly into their bank accounts.
3. Most awards will be divided equally—half in the Fall term and half in the Winter term, prior to the deadline for paying tuition and fees. The award will be applied towards tuition and fees and any remaining balance will be refunded.

Check [www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards) for important notices.





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# EXPO-SÉ

## How two guys with a web comic are changing the face of an entire industry



**T**HERE ARE A FEW STAPLES OF EVERY SUMMER ROAD TRIP: CAR, FRIENDS, CAMERA, MONEY, NINTENDO DS. OKAY, SO THAT LAST ONE MIGHT NOT BE ON THE TOP OF EVERYONE'S LIST, BUT FOR A LATE-AUGUST JAUNT TO SEATTLE FOR THE PENNY ARCADE EXPO—PAX, FOR SHORT—IT'S A MUST.

Created by the guys behind the popular web comic *Penny Arcade*, PAX is an annual convention. Now in its fourth year, it's designed with a single purpose: to bring together in one place as many like-minded nerd-brains and geek-wads as possible to celebrate their love of all things game. Board games, card games, table-top games, video games—it doesn't matter. As long as you love at least one of them, you're set—especially if you want to find some like-minded *Mario Kart*ers for a local network race on 150cc.

This was the first time I'd been to an event like this, and I had all kinds of preconceived notions of what to expect going in. I knew the type of people that would be there: overweight guys with long hair and acne-scarred faces looking at high-definition screens or coloured boards through thick-framed glasses, yelling at each other about *Mana* and dice rolls. And I knew that it would be glorious.

However, I soon realized that an event like PAX is about far more than just nerds loving nerd things. I learned that nerd culture is not so insular; that it has a ripple effect on many different aspects of life, from music to religion to politics to healthy competition. By bringing together almost 40 000 attendees, volunteers, and exhibitors in one place, the Penny Arcade Expo showed me just how diverse unity can be.

**Story and photos  
by Ramin Ostad  
with photos from Mike Smith**



### A Little History

*Penny Arcade* began in 1998 as an Internet-based comic strip published three times a week by artist Mike Krahulik and writer Jerry Holkins. Giving themselves the alter-egos Gabe and Tycho, they initially used the comic and supplementary news posts to provide commentary and satire on current events in the gaming industry. Over the past nine years, *Penny Arcade* has grown into much more, surpassing its comic-strip roots and becoming not only an Internet-culture phenomenon, but a force that has affected musicians, writers, sick children, large corporations, ping pong players, and convention goers alike. Now, they even have their own game in production.

"It doesn't seem like a chaotic explosion; especially in the case of *Penny Arcade*, it's been a very carefully plotted growth," says Damien Hess, better known as MC Frontalot, a rapper who got his biggest break with support from *Penny Arcade* and who has performed multiple times at PAX.

"But that's because guys like [*Penny Arcade* director of business development] Robert Khoo, and Jerry and Mike, pour all this blood and sweat into it. If it was just the boys, I don't think they'd have 30 000 people in this giant convention center. You need a group of smart people for that, and that's what they have."

For readers of their strip, the creators' strong bond seems to come up regularly. In the accompanying blog posts, Holkins often points out that a strip has been spawned from an actual conversation or argument between the pair.

During a Q&A period at PAX, Holkins and Krahulik discussed the strides they have made in their time together, and how it has affected their relationship.

"I think it was after the *Wired* article, after the guy had left, and I felt really good," Holkins reminisced. "And I said [to Mike], 'This is crazy man; we've been doing this for ten years. We really are like, more than friends.' And I was expecting him to

say, 'Yeah, we're like brothers.' But he turns to me and says, 'We're just colleagues; let's not make it more than it is.'"

"It's relatively complex," Krahulik replied. "I don't think that two friends would be able to do this for as long as we've done it. Because at some point, if you didn't expect the other person to be mean to you, and hate you, it would be a real surprise, and you would leave. But going into it, if you know you're there to use the other person as just a drawing machine, then you put up with whatever you have to put up with."



### The new Mecca

PAX may now be the largest convention of its kind in the United States, but it hasn't always been that way. Up until a year ago, before it underwent a major overhaul, that honour belonged to an event called the Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3), an event that used to be considered the ComiCon or Cannes of video games. Originally designed as a trade show for the computer- and video-game industry, it was intended to be a place where enthusiasts, journalists, and industry professionals alike could get their grubby hands and blood-shot eyes on all of the newest games and gadgets being shown by a large number of exhibitors.

But some ideas don't always pan out the way they were intended. Over the years, E3 became larger than life; its grandiose scale was equaled only by the extravagant and ultimately obtrusive spectacle it strived to become. While the flashy lights and trade mentality did have some benefits—it was the one time of year that video games were given mainstream media attention—it soon turned into a "Caligula's Interactive Funhouse Emporium" of sorts.

Soon, however, many gaming fans began to find ways to sneak into this "industry-only" only event. For example, since retailers were admitted to the event, every low-level cashier who worked at EB Games strove to become a manager and gain entry. Even campus media members were given passes. As more attendees began arriving annually, seemingly out of thin air, major businesses like Sony and Microsoft spent more and more money to make sure their showings were the loudest, flashiest, and most entertaining.

"What I like about PAX? It's slightly less crazy," says Jay Watamaniuk, the community manager for BioWare, a leading Edmonton-based video game developer. "You go to E3 in the past, and there was pounding noise and weird stages and women walking around with not a lot of clothing, and you just get this very Vegas style of crazy where it's very difficult to get your voice heard. I mean, we make role-playing games; we don't make big-explosion games. You can't go, 'Oh, look at the subtleties of this dialogue we're showing,' when you've got all this attraction and craziness."

As a result, E3 became a victim of its own growth and splendor, and was massively downsized to save money for everyone involved. Now, the guys behind *Penny Arcade* are starting to fill its shoes—albeit somewhat inadvertently. While PAX has its own style of spectacle, the focus on community and game culture make it a very different beast than E3. Watamaniuk says that, while PAX doesn't have the same mainstream penetration that E3 of old achieved, it's a nice change from a developer's standpoint.





"This is my first PAX, and I'm actually shocked and amazed and pleasantly surprised at what I've seen—sort of an 'E3 lite,' we could say. PAX is still a little crazy, but it's also more down to earth, which I like."

Since the breakdown of E3, many smaller shows have attempted to step up in its place, but support from the industry has been mixed at best. For now, at least, PAX is the brightest beacon for gamers to follow.

### White and Nerdy

Many great works of art have been created through real-life inspiration; music is no exception. No matter what genre a musician subscribes to, they all use life experiences to shape their work. Some inspiration can

can be drastically different, they have all been inspired by their inner nerd.

"I always just wrote songs about things that are interesting enough for me to sustain a 300-word song," says Hess, a Nerdcore rapper from Brooklyn whose career was helped by support from Penny Arcade. "Those just happened to all be dorky topics. I've always been a nerd: I started the Monty Python Fan Club at my high school, collected *Star Wars* toys and comic books. I had a few friends, but we all just played Commodore 64 together."

Hess' musical aspirations began as a side project in high school and throughout college. He and his friends would write and record original rock and pop operas in the summers, recording them on his home computer. An avid rapper, he soon

networks, and suddenly I was this person with an Internet presence," Hess recounts, still taken aback by it. "I wasn't really a band; I was just making songs on the Internet for people for free. But they started having the Penny Arcade Expo, so I started playing that. Then I got more shows, and interest kept building, and people asked me when they could buy a CD from me. Ever since then, I haven't had to do any other work, so now I spend all my time trying to do the music as well as I can."

Since the birth of PAX, the musical performances have been one of the expo's biggest attractions. As the genre grows, so does its fan base, reaching beyond just nerds and capturing the attention of many just looking for a good tune.



**"Suddenly thousands and thousands of people knew who I was, and [my] song was on MP3-stealing networks, and suddenly I was this person with an internet presence."**

*MC Frontalot on Penny Arcade's role in his success*

come from personal experiences, while others are a little more obscure. So when musicians start taking their inspiration from teenage afternoons playing *Super Mario Brothers* in the basement, they create a new style of music—one that spans many different genres, from rock to folk to hip-hop, and which reference topics like comic books, video games, *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*. This "Nerdcore" genre has been a part of PAX since its inception.

"We understand that it's a blooming genre, and we're in total support of that," Krahulik says. "It's very diverse. John Coulton, for example, is very nerd-folk. His show was amazing."

As a sign of this support, every iteration of the event has brought new Nerdcore artists with varying styles, from videogame music cover bands like the OneUps and the Minibosses, to folk singers like John Coulton, to Nerdcore rappers like Optimus Rhyme and MC Frontalot. While their music

developed a rap persona for himself, MC Frontalot, and used sight gags to give it personality.

"I'd put up pictures of other rappers with their faces blurred and go 'That's me!'" Hess admitted. "I'd take interviews from *Vibe* magazine with Snoop Dogg and erase all his answers and put my own answers in, blurred his face out. That was what my website was like—had about five songs on it."

In 2000, Hess put his song "Yo, Lazars" on [www.songfight.org](http://www.songfight.org), a website where musicians would create songs based on provided titles and enter their work into competition to be voted on by the Internet at large—sort of like *Iron Chef* meets online musical. The song was fairly popular among listeners, but it wasn't until the song was linked by Penny Arcade that it hit critical mass.

"Suddenly, thousands and thousands of people knew who I was, and the song was on MP3-stealing

### Game Over

Besides a cramped leg and a case of cabin fever, the drive back from Seattle gave me a lot of time to reflect on what I experienced at PAX. I learned that 40,000 gamers in one place will never be quite what you expect. Running from panels to concerts, Q&A sessions to lines on the exhibition floor, you find out that a convention like PAX is a lot more work than you would think. Hearing guys like professional nerd and former *Star Trek* star Will Wheaton discuss politicians, and watching John Coulton or The Minibosses rock out to nerd music, shows that that being a nerd or gamer doesn't mean what it used to. Its definition is changing, becoming wider and more diverse in its scope. From music to religion to sick children, it's slowly affecting every aspect of daily life.



MC FRONTALOT PHOTO SUPPLIED

### Think of the children

Arguably the most important event that the Penny Arcade crew has organized is an annual holiday charity drive called Child's Play. The program was set up in 2003 as "a game industry charity dedicated to improving the lives of children with toys and games in our network of over 40 hospitals worldwide." With the help of reader donations and corporate sponsorships, the charity has raised millions of dollars' worth of cash and toys, all of which goes towards helping sick children through hard times.

While the cause is noble, its creation was at least partly in response to the negative attention video games receive in mainstream press, such as an article written in 2003 by Bill France of the *Washington Herald* about ultra-violent video games (in which France wrote, "Video games laced with human atrocities help young, impressionable people practice killing without care").

In response, Holkins and Krahulik put their faith in their readership, asking for donations in the form of toys and games to be distributed among the kids



being treated at the Seattle Children's Hospital.

At the time, Holkins wrote, "Penny Arcade has a readership of something like 4.5 million gamers across the world. We are arguably the largest community of gamers on the Internet. Let's give these kids the Christmas that they deserve, and let's give the newspapers a different kind of story to write about gamers." In 2006, the program raised more than \$1 million, and it isn't stopping there.

"We'd like to have it in every state; we haven't quite gotten there yet," said Kristin Lindsay, project manager for Penny Arcade. "I'm definitely working on representation in every province as well. So you'll see more of a concentration on North America this year, and then the entire globe."



Since its creation, the topics of Penny Arcade's comics have spanned from obscure references on the antics video game developers and industry bigwigs, to more accessible commentaries on Hollywood film plots and Girl Scout cookie cartels. What started as a humble project between a duo of gaming geeks has exploded into a cultural phenomenon that, in addition to PAX, hosts a website that receives over 2 million page views per day, and a multimillion-dollar children's charity.



# Rams rain, hail, on Bears' gridiron parade

Alberta came back to the field invigorated after a long weather delay, but it wasn't enough to overcome Regina's early 17-point lead



22

24



### Players of the Game

Though the kickers dominated much of the scoring in this weekend's game, player of the game honours has to go to Chad Goldie, who made 15 catches for 146 yards and a touchdown. This set a new single-game Canada West record, outstripping the previous one of thirteen set in 1983. The 146 receiving yards were also a career high for Goldie.

### Box Score

#### First Quarter

10:08 Reg—Chad Goldie 23-yard pass from Teale Orban (Perri Scarcelli kick)  
08:46 Reg—Graham Mosiondz 25-yard pass from Teale Orban (Perri Scarcelli kick)  
00:58 Reg—Perri Scarcelli 14-yard field goal

#### Second Quarter

02:37 AB—Damon Fraietta 48-yard pass from Quade Armstrong (Hugh O'Neill kick)  
00:01 Reg—Perri Scarcelli 13-yard fireld goal

#### Third Quarter

14:13 AB—Aaron Holba 25-yard pass from Quade Armstrong (Hugh O'Neill kick)  
12:58 AB—Safety  
12:01 AB—Hugh O'Neill 47-yard field goal

#### Fourth Quarter

14:44 Reg—Perri Scarcelli rouge  
10:57 AB—Hugh O'Neill 33-yard field goal  
06:45 Reg—Perri Scarcelli 24-yard field goal

Regina	17	3	0	4	—	24
Alberta	0	7	12	3	—	22

	REG	AB
First downs	37	17
Yards rushing	143	92
Yards passing	398	250
Net offense	541	342
Passes made-attempted	83-54	12-27
Return yards	83	103
Interceptions by-yards	0-0	2-0
Fumbles-lost	1-0	1-1
Sacks by	1	0
Punts-average	6-39.2	8-39.8
Penaties-yards	12-95	10-87
Time of possession	39:50	20:10
Field goals made-attempted	3-5	2-4

**RUSHING:** Regina—Graham Mosiondz 25-98; Chad Goldie 3-19; Teale Orban 4-16; Jordan Sisco 2-5. Alberta—Tendayi Jozzy 16-83; Matthew Jarvis 1-9; N. Amenu-Tekaa 1-0.

**PASSING:** Regina—53-38-2; Perri Scarcelli 1-0-0. Alberta—Quade Armstrong 27-12-0.

**RECEIVING:** Regina—Chad Goldie 15-146; Jordan Sisco 7-66; Brenden Owens 5-67; Kolten Solomon 4-58. Alberta—Aaron Holba 7-151; Dale Stevenson 2-23; Damon Fraietta 1-48; M. Chapdelaine 1-20.



ZHENDONG LI

**HOLD ON TIGHT** Chad Goldie of the Regina Rams grabs onto the ball on his way to a new Canada West single-game receptions record on Saturday.

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

The rain gods may have been on the Bears side during their football game, but it still wasn't quite enough for them to pull off a win against the Regina Rams on Saturday. After lightning and hail brought an early end to a dismal first half, the Bears came out of the locker room energized and swung the momentum their way, but were unable to hold the lead and dropped the game 24–22 to Regina.

“You can't spot a team 17 points and expect to get through,” said Alberta head coach Jerry Friesen, referring to the 17–0 hole the Bears had fallen into before the weather delay. “We fought back, but you just can't do that. We were stuck going uphill the whole game.”

The game got started on a bad note for the Bears, as they earned a penalty before the first kickoff, and things quickly got even more grim. They let through two touchdowns in the first ten minutes, and made little offensive progress. The rain delay, which came 3:24 before halftime, was an opportunity to regroup and refocus the team's energies, and Friesen was able to use it to give his team a pep talk.

“I challenged them based on the character that we have as a team,” he said, while pulling a piece of paper with a Martin Luther King Jr quote printed on it out of his pocket. “I read them this: ‘The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.’ I said that we were in a time of challenge, and asked them how they would react

to it. I'm proud of how they reacted and how they played. We're still not all the way up that hill, but we've progressed.”

Alberta quarterback Quade Armstrong said that he and his teammates had a positive attitude even before Friesen's chat.

**“It was a really emotional loss. We had a tough first half, and they put a lot of pressure on us by scoring early. It's a tough way to start the season, [but] we showed that we can make big plays and bring the ball deep, and our running game shows promise.”**

QUADE ARMSTRONG  
BEARS QUARTERBACK

“We came to the locker room, and we still had confidence,” he said. “I think coming out of the break, we were going to take shots and try not to be as conservative. We came out fresh and firing”

The positive attitude must have helped, because when the lightning had stopped and the teams returned to the field, Alberta scored their first touchdown after barely a minute—with a long pass from Armstrong to slotback Damon Fraietta. They continued their success in the third quarter,

closing the gap in the score with another touchdown, this time from Aaron Holba, and several field goals—47 and 33 yards—by kicker Hugh O'Neill. The Alberta advances slowed down come the fourth, however, and after only a few minutes of the Bears holding a lead, the score settled at 24–22 for the Rams, where it would remain for the rest of the game.

The Bears went for a last-ditch field goal attempt from Hugh O'Neill with three seconds to go, but the kick didn't make it and the board stayed the same.

“It was a really emotional loss. We had a tough first half, and they put a lot of pressure on us by scoring early. It's a tough way to start the season, [but] we showed that we can make big plays and bring the ball deep, and our running game shows promise,” Armstrong said.

Friesen considered the whole game a learning experience for his young team, especially for first-year O'Neill. He made several important field goals during the game, and nearly won it for Alberta with the missed kick at the 11th hour. Friesen regretted that the pressure of a win was put on such a young player's shoulders, but argued that in the long run the experience would do O'Neill good.

“It was an opportunity to win, but asking a first-year to make a 52- or 53-yard field goal? There's got to be a better way. We'll depend on him again someday, and this will help him mature and grow,” Friesen explained. “But he didn't lose the game for us, and I don't want him to feel that he did; we had opportunities throughout the game to support him and didn't.”





PETE YEE

**THE OL ‘HOW’S SHE GOIN’** The Pandas split their weekend series against the U of S Huskies at Foote Field.

# Dogs run around Panda cubs

Alberta’s young soccer squad was inconsistent against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies this weekend, splitting the weekend series at home

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

If the hundred-plus curious soccer fans at the Pandas first series of the season were hoping to see a consistent performance by the squad, they were out of luck this weekend. The Pandas split the weekend pairing against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, winning the first game handily but letting Sunday’s match slip away.

On Saturday, under looming clouds, the Pandas ran around the Huskies to a 3–1 win in front of a cheering home crowd, with a goal from Jacqueline Smith and two from Sarah Smyth. The sunnier skies the next day didn’t help them, however, and they lost 1–0 on Sunday.

Alberta head coach Liz Jepsen was disappointed by Sunday’s result, but pragmatic about her team’s performance.

“It’s tough to drop a game, especially at this stage of the season, but such is life,” she said after the game. “Prior to the weekend, people were asking me, ‘What do you think your squad is going to be?’ and my answer was that they’re going to be young, and they’re going to be inexperienced. That’s what today showed.”

Jepsen acknowledged the deficiencies in Alberta’s game on Sunday, but was hopeful that with more work, the team can have more results like Saturday’s.

“Our execution was poor; our first touch was poor. We need to work on just creating more opportunities and that drive to finish.”

**“Prior to the weekend, people were asking me ‘What do you think your squad is going to be?’ and my answer was that they’re going to be young, and they’re going to be inexperienced. That’s what today showed.”**

**LIZ JEPSEN**  
PANDAS SOCCER HEAD COACH

The Pandas may have been missing the spark they’d had the day before, but Tom LaPointe’s Huskies were also a changed team on Sunday afternoon. They studied their mistakes on Saturday and adjusted their game overnight.

“The biggest thing we asked our players to do was get stuck in and pressure the ball, and the second thing was to play with our system of play,” LaPointe said. “They bought into it and it showed. We scored a

goal that was well-deserved.”

Though LaPointe emphasized that the victory was a team effort, there were a few standout players on his roster: particularly strikers Elizabeth Hudon, who scored on Saturday, Jamie Lemay, and midfielder Heather Campbell, who put in Sunday’s game-winner.

“[Lemay] had an overnight change in her game,” LaPointe said. “She made a drastic improvement.”

Jepsen noted Lemay’s skills against her team, and praised the Huskies coach, who is in his first year as head of the Huskies program.

“[LaPointe] coached tactically and effectively, and in the second game we weren’t able to counteract that. We tried, but again that’s down to being a young team,” she said.

Overall, Jepsen viewed the weekend as a learning experience for the many first- and second-year Pandas on the roster, and a good way to gauge Alberta’s strength against an opponent she described as a “mid-pack” team in the—extremely competitive—Canada West conference.

“We’re a young team, and we’re going to have these situations, so it’s better to have them happen right now,” she said. “It creates an opportunity for us to know how hard we need to work to be successful, which a lot of these girls don’t know yet.”

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# V-ball Pandas turning Japanese

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

It's Monday afternoon, and the U of A's Main Gym is full of young women, volleying and spiking back and forth to each other. Their shouts blend together with the background noise of balls bouncing and sneakers squeaking against the hardwood, but if you listen closely might notice something different about half the voices: they're speaking Japanese.

The athletes are members of the NIFS women's volleyball team from Japan, who are visiting the University this week. They have been training with the Pandas, and the two teams will have a full game on Wednesday night. Every year, the Pandas host a different Japanese university team, and in the past have visited to that country as well.

"Their sports system is similar to ours in that they go from junior high to high school to university to national teams or professional. They have a similar sort of calendar, and play at a very good level," said Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler, explaining the rationale behind the exchange program.

Both sides get a great deal out of the arrangement. The Pandas get to play

with what Eisler calls "some of the best university players in the world," and both teams have the chance to learn a different style of volleyball.

"For us, it's great competition and a good opportunity to play against some of the best university players in the world," Eisler said. "Their game is totally different. Because they're a little bit undersized—especially internationally—they have to rely more on speed and certainly skill. They're very good technically, and they use their speed and tactics to try to outdo our size and physicality. It's an interesting match up."

Eisler says that the Pandas program has already reaped benefits over the years from the exchange program, and have done their best to apply what they've learned to CIS competition.

"We've tried to take a page out of their books in terms of being better at ball control. I think in terms of the teams in Canada, we're the ones whose style is the most Japanese. We have bigger athletes to do it with, but not necessarily the time to promote the skills to the same extent that they have."

The Japanese team hasn't just been playing volleyball during their Edmonton visit, however. They've been visiting museums and galleries,



MIKE OTTO

**KONNICHI WA** That's Japanese for 'eight,' in case you were wondering.

and are excited to go shopping at West Edmonton Mall on Wednesday.

"A lot of them have never been outside of Japan, so culturally it's huge. It's a really neat opportunity for them to travel and get a taste of what it's like outside of Asia," Eisler said. "They're billeted too, so a lot of their memories will come from the time they've spent with their families in the evenings."

## Soccer Panda juggles busy schedule

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

Since childhood, Keshia Wallin has been juggling French-language schooling and an English-speaking home life, but when she gets on the soccer pitch, there's no need for translation. The second-year athlete, studying at Campus St Jean, is one of Alberta's key assets, and has a distinguished resume already: the talented outside-back as a named a second-team Canada West all-star in 2006.

"I had a really great year," Wallin says of her first season. "I was on the starting eleven—which is pretty big for a rookie—and I got that Canada West nod, which was awesome."

Pandas head coach Liz Jepsen has seen Wallin develop, and is impressed with the results of her progress.

"She's a very, very athletic player, and a great defender," Jepsen says. "She's one of our best young players."

In addition to her work with the Pandas, Wallin has been a member of Edmonton's Victoria soccer club women's Alberta major league team since 2002. In fact, they—and she—are in the middle of training for club-team nationals in October.

All this has left her more than a little exhausted, and when combined with her Pandas duties and schoolwork, Wallin's schedule is packed.

"As for spare time, I really don't have any," she says. "My club team is in double training, so I don't have any extra time. Any extra time I do have I just spend studying."

As for school, Wallin is working on getting all her pre-requisites for a switch into business next year. She loves learning in French, though, so she's hoping to make it a bilingual business degree. She has been in French immersion since kindergarten and is glad to be able to continue that at University.

"It's a really great community," Wallin says of Campus St Jean. "It's



KATE WADE

**BONJOUR** Pandas soccer star Keshia Wallin can play soccer in French, too.

really small, and the teachers are very personal."

The French track isn't without its hurdles, however.

"I'm Anglophone—my parents don't speak French—so it's a bit of a challenge," she says. "For the first couple of months, I pretty much didn't say anything in class: I just listened to everyone else. But now it's great. I'm much more comfortable in school and in general."

"If I had any time, though, I'd love to just be sitting on the couch," she says. "Honestly, I'd love to just be sitting and doing nothing."

A little sitting might be good for her health, actually, but she's not ready to slow down at all. This

summer, Wallin has been plagued with injuries, which means she can't perform at her best on the field.

"I tore my hamstring playing against the national training centre, and then I pulled my quad about three weeks ago," Wallin explains. "It's pretty unfortunate right now, especially since I'm heading to nationals in about four weeks, so I'm hoping to rest for these four weeks, but I doubt that'll happen."

Jepsen can't wait until Wallin's healthy again, but wants to wait until she's fully recovered.

"Right now she's playing at about 80 per cent for us, which is really too bad. Hopefully she's healthy at some point in time."



# Oilers don't need more ice

Instead of sending their rookies somewhere nice to train, they were stuck in the boring, unappealing Northwest Territories



PAUL OWEN  
  
Sports  
Commentary

When the prevailing public opinion of your hockey franchise is that it operates inside of a fishbowl, and that every move you make is subject to almost endless scrutiny, it's probably a good idea to get out of town for training camp. Of course, when the second-most prevalent opinion of your team—especially amongst players' wives—is that it's located in an ice-bound winter wasteland that doesn't see the sun from October to March, that pre-season move probably shouldn't be to somewhere even further north. So the Edmonton Oilers head office somehow decided that it makes perfect sense for the team to pack up and head to Yellowknife for their rookie camp.

Let's be clear about one thing here: even in the beginning of September, Yellowknife is a pretty shitty place to be. The three days the new Oilers spent there saw the temperature hover around 10C, and the team was in an old, cramped arena usually reserved for bantam teams. It really was a poor first impression to give to the rooks. Moreover, holding court in Yellowknife doesn't exactly help the perception had by many a player's wife—those of Chris Pronger, Peter Nedved and Michael Nylander among them—that it is the aforementioned land of ice and snow.

The Oilers are desperately in need of a make-over in the eyes of the league's free agents—they need to start seeming like a good team to play for instead of one of the worst. And instead of showcasing the city and what Edmonton has to offer, they chose to put their young recruits in one of the most remote and inconsequential cities in the country, probably damaging their reputation even more.

The jaunt didn't really serve any practical purpose for the Oil anyway. Sure, they managed to grab some media attention and earned the adulation of the Yellowknifers, but it's not as if many of them will be willing to make the 1500km drive to watch the Oilers play, especially in the winter. The team would have been better served,—from a marketing standpoint—to travel to Saskatoon and try to grab a bigger chunk of the 200 000 or so citizens there, the majority of whom don't have a natural, geographic home team. It's four-lane highway to Saskatoon, and those Skatchies don't have anything better to do once the Riders' season ends. Plus Saskatoon has plenty of retail options for the Oilers to stock their copper and blue merchandise.

**Let's be clear about one thing here: even in the beginning of September, Yellowknife is a pretty shitty place to be. The three days the new Oilers spent there saw the temperature hover around 10C, and the team was in an old, cramped arena usually reserved for bantam teams.**

Instead of using their training camp to boost the team's reputation or financial position, the Oilers opted for the gimmicky choice of Yellowknife, instead of a more viable location like Red Deer, Saskatoon, or even Edmonton. This is already a high-revenue NHL team, but with the prospect of a new arena looming, a little more coin in the coffers would have been helpful. Instead, Oilers brass got to freeze their asses off while they showed their rookies to a fan base that will have little impact on the team's future, further damaging their reputation with the players in the process.

# Esks rotting from the top down



SCOTT LILWALL  
  
Sports  
Commentary

There have been a lot of adjectives of varying colour and venom tossed around to describe the Edmonton Eskimo season thus far: "trainwreck" and "carwreck" are oft-repeated in the sports sections of both the *Journal* and the *Sun*, and a frustrated friend of mine opted for the less-heard term "unexplained, spontaneous shit-plosion" to describe the Labour Day loss. But these epithets fail to accurately explain what is happening to a squad that two short years ago were Grey Cup champions. That's because metaphors invoking planes, trains, and automobiles imply some sort of external cause, where the problems with the Esks are primarily an internal one: the football club has contracted a terminal illness.

Whatever bug the hometown team has caught, the prognosis for the rest of the year isn't exactly optimistic; with a dismal 3-6-1 record including a pair of recent losses to the rival Stampeders, there's very little reason to think that Edmonton's vitals are going to be getting any stronger anytime soon. The ailment that has a hold of the team is systemic, spreading to every aspect of the game: the once-proud Edmonton defense has atrophied, the offensive line is coughing up blood intermittently, and even the huddle seems to have a touch of gangrene.

The point is that if there is to be any hope of recovery, a course of aggressive treatment needs

to be taken. CFL fans discovered this week what Dr Danny Maciocia prescribes: sending sack-crazy Rahim Abdullah back home to Florida. The loud-mouthed, abrasive defensive end has been in hot water since introducing his knee to the neck of Stamps' tailback Gerald Commissiong, an idiotic penalty that kept alive the Calgary drive that tied up the game last Friday—a game that the Esks eventually lost 20-17.

Now, let me first say that I'm all for amputating Abdullah. While he is an impressive player, his behaviour and conduct both on the field and off is nothing more than shameful. He's got a problem controlling his temper—a disability that Calgary obviously was aware of and used to their advantage. But as a whole, getting rid of Abdullah is akin to lancing a boil from the foot of an Ebola patient: sure it's an improvement, but it isn't exactly the most pressing problem. And with the rash of stupid penalties taken by the likes of AJ Gass and Adam Braidwood, Dr Danny could spend the rest of the season doing cosmetic work while the rest of the team lingers on life support, without making any progress on curing the team.

Abdullah's lack of control isn't the disease that has infected the team, it's only a symptom. Throughout 2006 and into this year, Maciocia has had a long list of excuses for the team's performance. And while injuries, weather and other external causes can plague a football team, the lack of discipline that the team has shown can be put squarely on the shoulders of the coaches. Canning Abdullah is nothing more than putting a band-aid on a flesh wound. The real cause is higher up in the team's body, and Dr Danny should consider taking himself off the Eskimo case permanently. Physician, heal thyself.

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KEVIN CHARLTON

## Rezfest rocks Lister

PAUL BLINOV  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Listerites braved rainy weather, watery beer, and some seriously muddy shoes on Saturday night to ring in the school year right with Rezfest.

Performers attending ranged from the untested to the local heroes. Hunter Valentine, a riot-grrl group, had the unfortunate luck of playing first during the rain, and as a result, the audience was miniscule. However, the sun came out for Mother Mother, bringing with it a larger audience to bask in the Vancouver band's drunken hoe-down rock. The Dudes were the perfect off-balance, with the band assuring the crowd they'd drank plenty before taking the stage.

Cadence Weapon almost stole the show: Rezfest's first ever rapper worked the then-sizeable crowd nicely, moving, flailing, and shouting with gusto.

The audience continued to grow until Ten Second Epic took to the stage, at which time the campus 5-0 began making constant trips into the audience to halt radical moshers from crushing their fellow residents.



## Shoot 'Em Up does just that, nothing more

### filmreview

#### Shoot 'Em Up

Now Playing  
Written and Directed by Michael Davis  
Starring Clive Owen, Monica Bellucci, and Paul Giamatti

TYSON DURST  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Imagine a live-action version of a Bugs Bunny / Elmer Fudd cartoon and mix in some steroids and crack, and you'll have a pretty good idea of what *Shoot 'Em Up* is like—if the title didn't already tip you off, that is. There's actually a scene wherein dialogue is borrowed from those exact cartoons as some kind of bizarre homage to their slapstick sensibilities. But while *Shoot 'Em Up* features some incredible stunts and action choreography, it's doubtful that it will attain the classic timelessness of those legendary animated creations—although it may earn an award or two at the NRA People's Choice Awards.

Amidst the trigger-happy chaos, Clive Owen stars as a homeless man known only as John Smith, who happens to possess expert marksmanship skills and a love of carrots—whether he's eating them or stabbing them into somebody's face. When he helps a pregnant woman being pursued by a mob of gun-toting thugs led by a hitman (Paul Giamatti), he soon finds himself in charge of a

newborn infant while simultaneously shooting anything with a heartbeat. Monica Bellucci is introduced as a lactating hooker that Smith seeks out to help him, but her part seems to be written as if Bellucci was being punished for appearing in the *Matrix* sequels.

**It becomes increasingly clear that with this level of talent, a better script and better dialogue could have really elevated *Shoot 'Em Up* beyond a mere spectacle of amazing gunplay and stunt wizardry.**

Of course, a lot of bad guys die in increasingly creative ways, some cheesy one-liners are delivered—they can't all be good, or even decent, given that nearly the entire script is a tribute to one-liners—and a silly conspiracy plot is uncovered, along with some weak and laughable attempts at discussing America's obsession with guns and gun control.

It's worth pointing out that while Bellucci struggles to make the best of what she's given, Clive Owen and Paul Giamatti don't really fare much better. As the movie goes on, it becomes

increasingly clear that with this level of talent, a better script, and better dialogue could have really elevated *Shoot 'Em Up* beyond a mere spectacle of amazing gunplay and stunt wizardry. A lot of the campiness is probably intentional, but that would be a lot easier to ascertain if the movie could make up its mind about how serious or comical it's supposed to be.

Fortunately, the creativity behind the stunts and action sequences, bordering on insanity, is the film's salvation. While the formula of action scene, plot-revealing transition, action scene is highly predictable, this may be the first movie in which there's been a gun battle combined with skydiving, a baby being delivered by a guy who's simultaneously having a shootout, and a man taking out a slew of bad guys in a hail of bullets while continuing to have sex. And this doesn't even include the obligatory car chase that pays tribute to Isaac Newton and the laws of inertia in yet another eye-popping stunt.

As a whole, *Shoot 'Em Up* is as riddled with holes as the pile of bodies that accumulates during the film's 87 minutes, which might be a new record for brevity in an era of three-hour-plus blockbuster marathons. But since this is really a porno for guns in the same way that *Transformers* was a porno for robots, GM vehicles, and the US Air Force, most people probably won't mind or care because most people don't watch pornos for plot, depth, or character development.



# Stop music, in the name of music



PAUL  
BLINOV

Every Tuesday, the music industry rewards loyal fans with a fresh batch of shiny new discs from their favourite artists. Kanye West, 50 Cent, Hot Hot Heat and The Go! Team all have releases today, for example, each costing the consumer a pretty penny—and that’s just the tip of this week’s wallet-sinking iceberg of releases. Thousands of CDs get released yearly, but how many of those could you really call original?

Sure, argue that Kayne’s rhymes bring something fresh to the table, or that hiding behind the moniker of indie makes something unique; the truth is that most music these days is just a rehash of what’s come before—Justin Timberlake is derived from Michael Jackson; Amy Winehouse grabbed her schtick from the Motown girls of the ‘60s; Simple Plan is pure junior high talent show—quality or not, it’s basically just grabbing at what has already been done.

What music needs is an old fashioned time out. A five-year cool-down period, during which nobody releases *anything* new.

Sound crazy? Listen up: I’m not advocating the end of music or touring, or setting piles of CDs ablaze in some self-righteous “fuck off” to recording artists. But if everyone could just take a break from releasing derivative crap, I think we’d all be better for it, artists included.

It wouldn’t be that bad financially: big-name artists could live off of their established fortunes, and most smaller bands make more money off of tours anyways—and they could always teach music lessons to pay the bills. Record execs could take a hiatus into the regular business/marketing world, and



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MIKE OTTO

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH** Stop releasing music until you get your groove back.

audio engineers could develop new technologies to better the quality of recordings.

But back to music itself: without having to worry about making a release that pleases their record label or sells by the bucket, artists would begin to actually explore their music again and probably come up with something totally new and sexy. Two years is too short of a time span for any change to occur—that’s the average waiting time between an artist’s albums—and ten years is too long. But in five years, something could actually happen to pull music out of the repetitive undertow it’s presently stuck in.

Plus, fans would actually seek out quality older music instead of waiting for some young, sexy singer to make a certain style or era cool

again. There’s an almost century-long backlog of recorded music that doesn’t get the respect it deserves from new generations of music lovers. Why waste everyone’s time and effort making mediocre new tunes when the old stuff crackles with the excitement of having *invented* styles and genres? Stores like HMV could dig into the back-catalogues and re-release ancient-but-deserving music to a new generation of fans.

Is it really that crazy to have five years without new music? Nobody has even come close to hearing everything that’s already available—you probably won’t even look into five albums that get released today. So give music a chance by actually giving it a chance to figure out something new.



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

**LIGHT AND SHADOWS** After a long month of work, Tim Rechner and Craig Talbot finished their Morning Light exhibit.

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# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 3 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, 11 september, 2007

## Deferred maintenance costs still adding up

After racking up over \$650 million in maintenance costs, the University of Alberta will finally see some relief from the province

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

The University of Alberta is the oldest and largest postsecondary institution in the province—a distinction that comes with a high cost.

The University currently has \$656 million in deferred maintenance costs—by far the largest tab in the province—and U of A Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) Don Hickey noted that that figure is likely understated.

“We think it’s actually higher than that, given the inflation costs that have been going on, and some things aren’t tracked in deferred maintenance by government, which would increase the need for dollars,” Hickey said.

On 22 August, the Alberta government announced it would invest \$350 million towards the maintenance of over 100 schools, hospitals, postsecondary facilities, and local governments. Of this unbudgeted funding, \$111 million has been earmarked for the Ministry of Advanced Education to cover major system upgrades.

The University still hasn’t heard confirmation of how much of the funding they will be receiving, but Hickey said it’s estimated to be in the range of \$40–50 million.

“Obviously the amount we’re going to get won’t cover all the priorities, so we have to work with [the provincial government] to see which ones can be covered off,” Hickey said.

U of A Students’ Union Vice-



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

**PUTREFYING POSTSECONDARY** As the U of A’s maintenance fees continue to rise, the government’s current response may not address the issues adequately.

President (External) Steven Dollansky noted that a significant portion of the buildings on campus were built before 1960, before the University of Calgary even opened its doors.

“Therefore, all these aging facilities need additional money and upkeep, and that’s not reflected in the operating funding,” Dollansky explained. “If you look at our deferred maintenance

bill, it’s over half of the [system-wide] total.”

Dollansky added that while the forthcoming funding from the provincial government will go towards alleviating pressures on critical building systems, it won’t eliminate the need for increasing future endowments.

“This funding will essentially slow

the Tory building’s slide into the river bank—it’s not going to stop it. We’re going to need significantly more funding before we see the problem go away,” Dollansky said. “This is just a drop in the bucket, but it’s an essential drop in the bucket that can go towards critical safety concerns, and that is appreciated.”

The provincial government’s

annual report, *Measuring Up*, has reported that 90 per cent of postsecondary institutions in the province are in “good or fair physical condition.”

However, Maurice Tougas, Alberta Liberal shadow critic for postsecondary education, questioned the relevance of the statistic.

PLEASE SEE **MAINTENANCE** ♦ PAGE 2

## Initial U-pass reactions primarily positive

JENNIFER HUYGEN  
News Staff

Initial feedback is positive after the implementation of the Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) came into effect on 1 September at the University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan campuses.

As tens of thousands of students started classes last week for the fall semester, Edmonton Transit System (ETS) and the U of A sat on the edge of their seats in anticipation of how U-Pass ridership would fare initially. And ETS even apologized pre-emptively for problems accommodating the increased numbers.

However, according to Don Hickey, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), student response has been very supportive.

“We’re very pleased with the uptake [and] attitude of the students, [which has] been of a very positive nature in which they’re embracing the U-Pass

and the benefits it’s going to give them.”

Fourth-year Arts student Corinna Chow echoed Hickey’s sentiments, describing the U-Pass as a convenient alternative to the previous system.

“I think it’s very handy, and it’s much cheaper than [paying] \$54 a month,” Chow said.

U of A students currently pay \$75 per term in fees for the U-Pass. It was approved by an 84 per cent of vote of students during of students the undergraduate referendum held on the issue last March, and 83 per cent during the graduate students’ referendum last February.

According to Students’ Union VP (External) Steven Dollansky, the implementation has been a huge success.

“We have distributed in excess of 26 000 stickers at this point,” Dollansky said via email. “Surprisingly, nearly 8500 stickers were handed out before September first. As a result, the mass

distribution centers have been able to distribute the remaining stickers with minimal wait times.”

Mass distribution sites were set up by the One Card office around campus last week. After 7 September, stickers became available at Infolink booths in SUB, HUB, ETLC, and CAB.

Despite the positive feedback, numerous concerns were voiced in the weeks preceding the start of classes as to how ETS would be able to handle the anticipated influx of transit users. As stated by Patricia Dickson, spokesperson for ETS, detailed measures have been put into place to facilitate the anticipated increase in ridership, including increased frequency of service and the addition of new routes.

“We have a comprehensive plan [...] to address the anticipated increase in [transit] service required by postsecondary students,” Dickson explained.

PLEASE SEE **U-PASS** ♦ PAGE 4

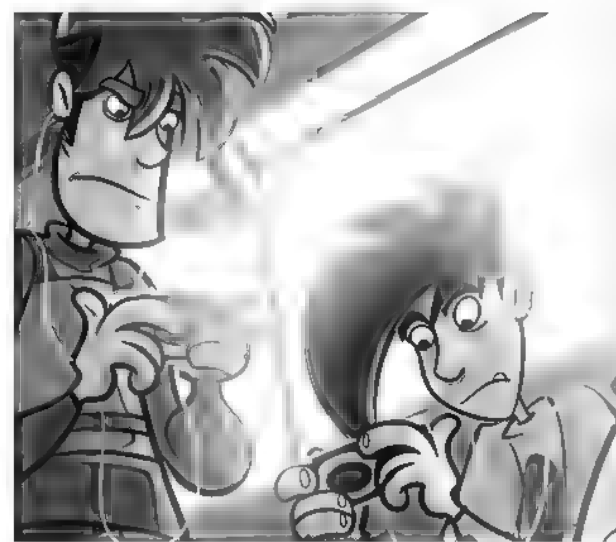


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ZHENDONGLI

**DON’T CELL YOURSELF SHORT** Current cellular phone networks and blanket Wi-Fi coverage aren’t all that great, say University researchers. Story on page 4.

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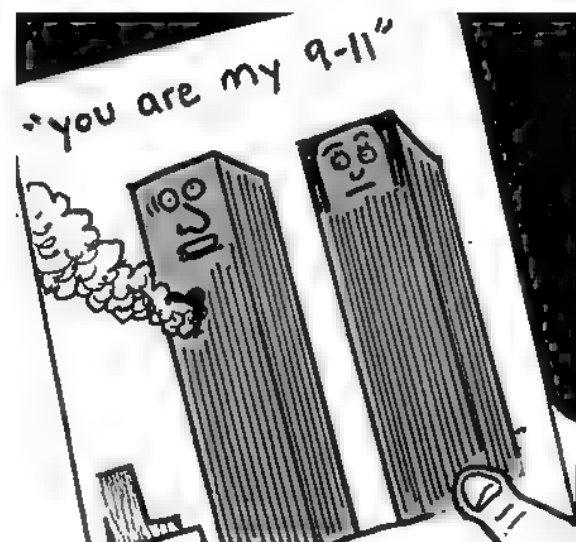
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## Comics on the 'Net ...

Ramin Ostad and Mike Smith travelled to Seattle to take in PAX, one of the largest gatherings of geeks on the planet.

FEATURE, PAGES 12-13



## ... and in the paper

Mike Winters makes his return to the Gateway the only way he knows how: by offending our entire readership.

COMICS, PAGE 23



# Life, death, and prints that capture the in between

Despite having vanished back to Poland, MFA printmaker Monika Niwelinska's *(dis)appearance* exhibit is still very visible

## artpreview

### *(dis)appearance*

Runs until 22 September  
Fab Gallery

PAUL BLINOV  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Whether you stop in FAB out of random chance, a genuine love of new artwork, or because you have 15 minutes to kill, currently wandering through the gallery will yield an exhibit celebrating the temporary nature of all things.

Entitled *(dis)appearance*, the print exhibit a collection of works by Monika Niwelinska, who recently received her MFA in printmaking. But should spectators find themselves truly inspired by a piece and feel like putting a personal word in to the artist herself, they'll unfortunately find themselves out of luck.

"Monika's [from] Krakow, Poland, and she recently got a job teaching in a college, so she had to return to Poland," explains Liz Ingram, Niwelinska's grad supervisor. "She'd been here for two years to do her MFA degree ... she finished all the paperwork necessary after her exhibition opened, and then had to leave."

According to Ingram, *(dis)appearance* is Niwelinska exploration of the fragility of life through both natural and man-made means. The cycle of appearance and disappearance in nature—life and death—as well as

structures coming together and falling apart, all play into the exhibit.

"[(*dis)appearance*] is very poignant," Ingram says. "For one thing, there's a series called 'Tsunami,' which deals with the photographs taken by a couple who were killed by the tsunami wave whose camera was recovered. Through the process of etching that Monika used, the photograph changed in nature—the process also deteriorates the image—and there's a physical quality to them that she really liked."

"[Another] series is from an old runway that's being eaten away and destroyed and isn't in use anymore in Krakow," Ingram continues. "She went back to Poland to do a whole photographic series of that location, which resulted in this body of work. She was really interested in this place because it was the only place in Krakow that reminded her of Edmonton."

After two years, Niwelinska had obviously grown comfortable living and working in Edmonton, but that didn't come without its initial challenges, such as living in a city where few people speak Polish. But despite the cultural obstacles, Niwelinska eventually started to draw on her temporary home for inspiration.

"She went through a lot of difficulties in terms of cultural adjustment with language, and the whole environment was so different for her," Ingram notes. "But she was very attracted to our environment, and I think her work was very much influenced by the physical and social environments



ERINNE FENWICK

**NOW YOU SEE IT** Monika Niwelinska's MFA exhibit will remain up in FAB gallery, even though she's left the country.

here. She overcame a lot of [the] hardships that every foreign student probably experiences."

A printmaker herself, Ingram found working at the graduate level to be a welcome experience, one that's much different than working with undergrad students. Despite her role of supervisor, working with artists like

Niwelinska teaches Ingram as much as they learn from her.

"With an undergrad, you're also teaching a lot of the how-to, [but] with the graduate student, it's really their proposal, their ideas, and technically it's their choice of medium," she says. "You can help them sometimes, suggest possible other things to

investigate to bring an extra twist to the work, or express the idea better. But it's the student, and the student will sometimes go for it and sometimes react against suggestions. You expect that at the graduate level, but as a supervisor, what's so exciting is that [I] learn a lot. It's definitely learning in both directions."

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## siteunseen

[www.vampire-church.com](http://www.vampire-church.com)

VICTOR VARGAS  
Online Coordinator

Claiming to be run by real vampires, the Vampire Church has been established to provide the immortal creatures of the night with a sanctuary to deal with their condition in peace, and to inform the public about the truth of being a vampire. The church's founder, Vampire Damien, realized that in order for vampires to survive in the modern world, they needed an organization to combat the propaganda of Hollywood. To this end, the church encourages and helps vampires find willing "donors" who are all too happy to give them a nibble of their neck.

In addition to these services, the Vampire Church offers a wide array of activities and programs for the fledgling vampire in need, or the just plain curious human. Vampires have access to private forums, chat rooms, vampire help tips, and even a personals section. And for us humans, the church offers a wide variety of sources about vampirism and a magazine you can educate yourself with about why all vampires are not the evil bloodthirsty, emo-beings Hollywood portrays them to be.

In fact, the Vampire Church doesn't actually believe in the standard, Dracula-style blood-sucking vampire. Instead, the church has determined that the vampiric condition comes in three other variants: in addition to fanged blood-drinkers, there are vampires that continue their existence by feeding off of psychic energies, elemental energies (like storms and water) and even sexual energy.



Then again, the church acknowledges that these are not the only beliefs out there and also admits that it's competing against other vampire organizations. Among the competition are groups like the Coven and the Sanguinarium who compete with the Vampire Church for members and argue with each other about the nature of vampirism and the ethics of being a walking parasite.

To the Vampire Church's credit, becoming a member of their church requires no paid fees. Any person can become a member by filling out a quick application form and making a vague commitment to participate in discussions. However, within the Vampire Church, there exists the elite ruling class known as Associates.

In order to be an Associate, the Vampire Church requires you to follow a very strict set of requirements. You must have been a regular member for a minimum of three months, commit to providing one hour of time per week to helping the church maintain

its services, pass a rigorous interview process, and prove that you are a real vampire and not some nutbag trying to fake it. And even if you meet all of these requirements, you also must be considered a good vampire as defined by the church.

The truly fascinating thing about the church, however, is that despite being controlled and run by "real vampires," it actually promotes a number of ethical and moral outlooks. Vampires belonging to the church can't go out and stalk a poor girl through a graveyard and devour her whole. Instead, the Vampire Church insists that any draining of energies must be consensual, even if it's harmless to the victim. The church promotes several good causes, such as DACA—Darkness Against Child Abuse—and even goes out of its way to weed out people that have convinced themselves that they are vampires, and try their best to refer these mentally disturbed people to psychiatric help.

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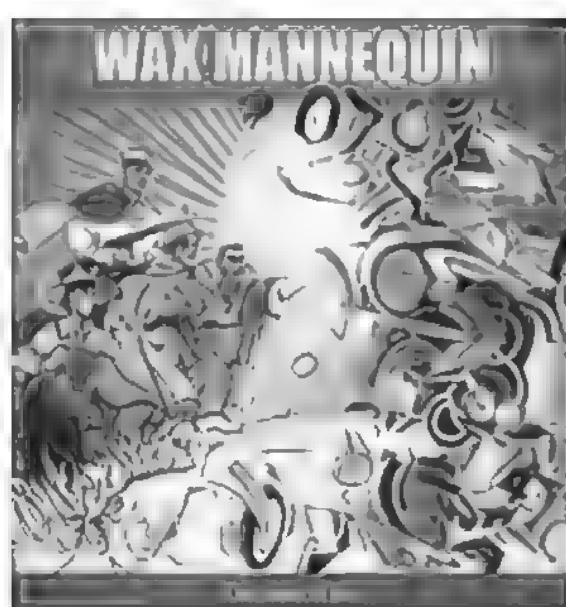
In the Samuel Beckett play "Waiting for Godot," Vladimir and Estragon spend most of their time, well, waiting for Godot to show up.

Paul Blinov spends most of his term as Entertainment Editor waiting for David Bowie to call.

But in the meantime, he'll hook you up with some other sweet interviews and entertainment-related assignments. Just pop by the Gateway office at 5pm on any given Thursday. Paul will be there, waiting for Bowie to call.



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## albumreview

**Wax Mannequin**  
*Orchard & Ire*  
Infinite Heat

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Listening to Wax Mannequin's *Orchard & Ire* for the first time reminded me of how disappointed I felt when I saw *Something's Gotta Give* a few years back. The opener of Wax Mannequin's fourth release, "Animals Jump," instantly caught my interest, just as the part in the film's trailer where Jack Nicholson's character, Harry, quickly averts his eyes after accidentally having seen the mother of his current—and much younger—girlfriend naked made me laugh.

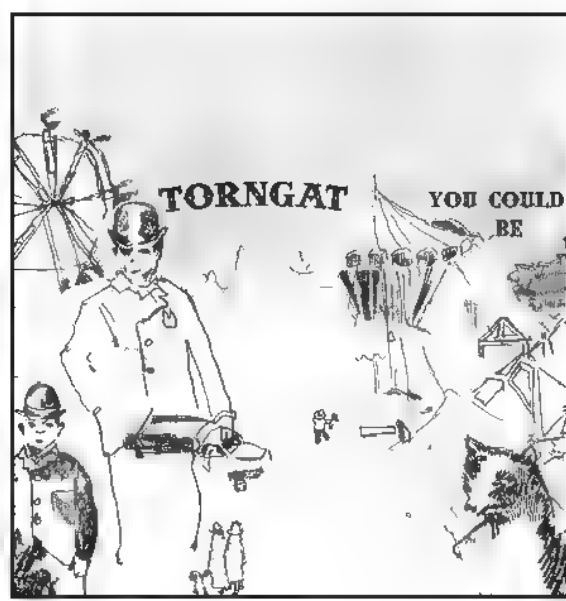
"Animals Jump" is a hybrid of genres as Wax's rough vocals, which become operatic as the song progresses, float on a buoyant melody.

However, the rest of *Orchard & Ire* was about as satisfying as watching *Something's Gotta Give* in its entirety. There are some really good moments on the record, just as there were a handful of amusing scenes in the film. But unfortunately, listening to what seemed like an over-saturation of heavy guitars and raspy vocals on the disc became just

about as exhausting as watching Harry attempt to walk up a very long staircase.

With an attention-grabbing trailer and acting greats Nicholson and Dianne Keaton, I wanted to like *Something's Gotta Give*. And with a great opening song and Wax Mannequin's great past work such as "Message from the Queen" on previous record *The Price*, I wanted to like this record. Listening to it the second and third time, however, made me notice things I hadn't before—like the cool ending in "Price Paid" that sounds like a mix of carnival music and video game effects or the Johnny Cash-like acoustic tune of "Almost Everyone."

Unlike *Something's Gotta Give*, where the juvenile approach to a potentially interesting story leaves something to be desired in its execution, *Orchard & Ire* eventually reveals that it lives up to the complexity of its first track.



## albumreview

**Torngat**  
*You Could Be*  
Alien8 Recordings

KEVIN CHARLTON  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When you get an album from a band that trumpets its use of instruments such as a wurlitzer, a BBQ grill, and a toy xylophone on the back cover, you really don't know what to expect. *You Could Be* is the first full-length album from Torngat, an orchestral franco-phone-trio that hails from Montreal. The unusual-instrument-filled album possesses a happy-go-lucky feel, like something you'd hear in the movie *Amélie*.

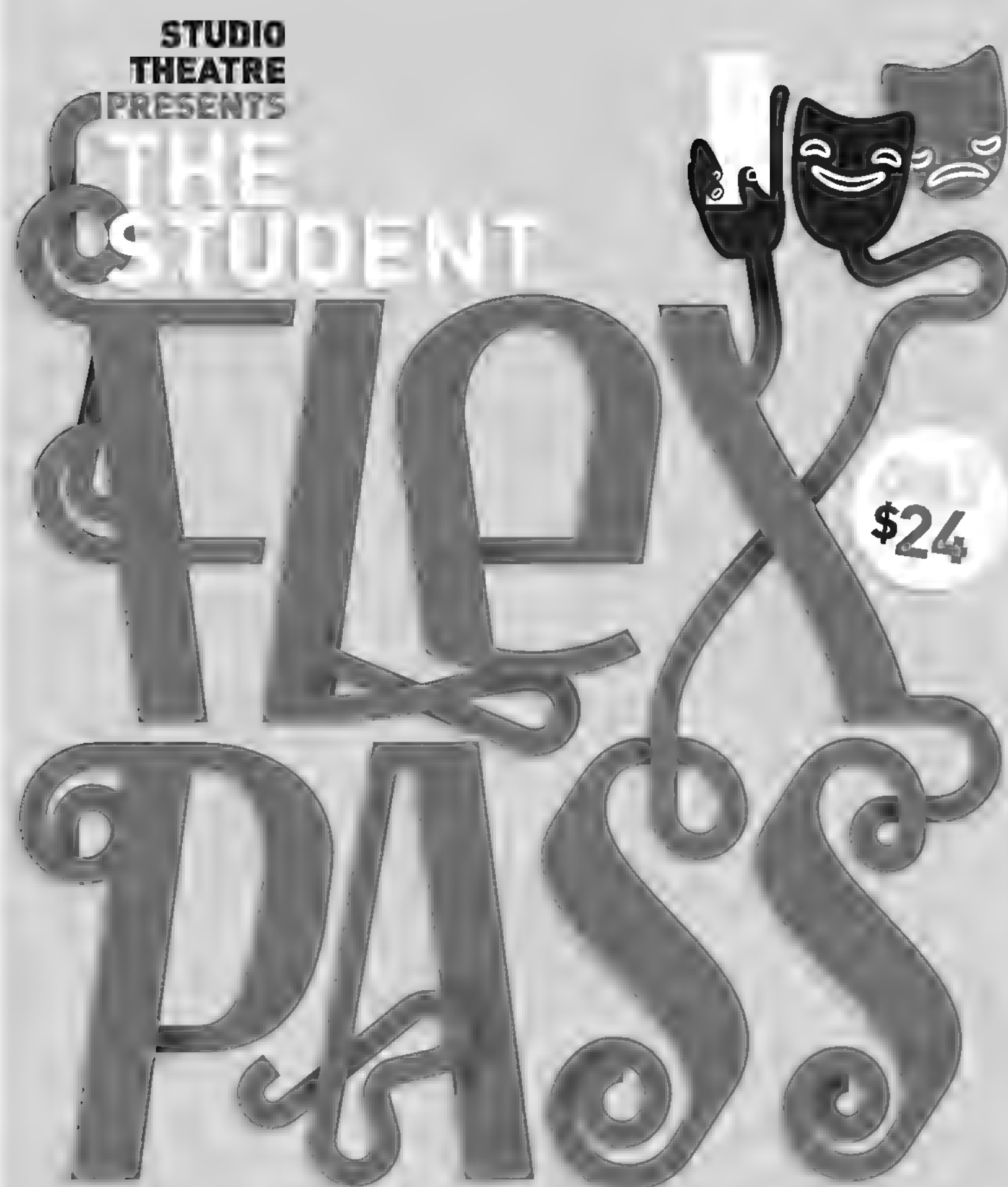
Throughout *You Could Be*, it's

obvious that all three members are very musically competent with any of the instruments that they choose to play. And as strange as those instruments might have sounded on their own, Torngat pulls them all together into something coherent that's just magical. Their mellow, flowing sound makes you want to lie on your back and watch the clouds float on by.

"Suite a) Steps to a Lively Dance" is a very energetic tune and is the

longest of the trio of "suites." The second, "Suite b) Chorale," feels much darker and quieter, as if a problem was arising to disrupt the happiness of the first suite. The final of the three, "Suite c) L'Océan, La Nuit" returns to the energy of the first, as if overcoming the darkness of the middle suite. It's not nearly as upbeat as the "Steps to a Lively Dance," but instead focuses on a very mellow tune with the french horn melody being backed by string and electric instruments.

Torngat aren't afraid of trying different combinations with their affected french horn melodies and modal keyboards—it's these strange combinations that allow their music to take on a diverse and unique life of its own. *You Could Be* is a pleasant surprise of a debut, and shows that Torngat have more room to experiment even further and surprise again in the future.



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## albumreview

**Usra Leedham**  
*The Architect's Wound*  
Bad Reputation

ALEXANDER WITT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

There is something heartwarming about authentic, straight-from-the-heart music. Singer-songwriter Usra Leedham's latest album, *The Architect's Wound*, is a personal composition in which each element of the song—the vocals, the accompaniment, the rhythm—all emanate from one spirit. She impresses with her voice's tremendous range and alongside her piano and organ, creates an unusual genre of music that her own label "unclassifies:" something between new age

and international, with house and soul influences to boot.

It seems that Usra Leedham has decided to chart her own course through the wilds of musical style, but with "Something for Nothing"—a song of unrequited, resentful love—one hopes that she has found her way in the romantic world. It's a soulful, rhythmic, and bitterly accented ballad of unrequited love. Meanwhile, "It's Not for You" is a nearly ten-minute-long exploration of both a relationship in progress

and Leedham's amazing vocal range.

On the whole, Leedham's music lies somewhere outside of the traditional melody/chorus dichotomy, and at times she assuredly casts off her classical vocal training to sing in this other soulful manner—even if her voice becomes one of such rich emotion that the lyrics themselves aren't enunciated. From her opener "It Has Been Said," she may seem to be singing in another language—and with her on a French label, one can never tell.

But this lack of lyrical emphasis works well in Leedham's case: a post-modern and self-aware artist shouldn't constrain herself to singing simplistic lyrics for their own merit when, as a whole, her music ensemble is so full of potential. This may not be a world-shaking album, but keep your eye out for Usra in the future. She may yet become another of our nation's well-known artistic treasures.



## albumreview

**Cry of the Afflicted**  
*The Unveiling*  
Solid State Records

VANESSA HORNE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

*The Unveiling* is the third album released by Kelowna band Cry of the Afflicted. Though the album gets off to a scream start, some of its songs include decent harmonizing, but coupled with gratuitous use of power chords, *The Unveiling* makes for a grating listen.

Despite its emo title, "A Scar-Filled Sky" was the easiest on the ears, with a decent set of harmonies and a break from the abrasive guitar that

runs rampant elsewhere. It also seems to be similar in style to fellow band Anberlin, whom Cry of the Afflicted thank in their liner notes—not a great showing their own originality, however.

"Self-Defiance" wins for having the whiny lyrics—lines like "Save me from myself, selfish distraction / I've led myself astray for what? / For comfort? / There is no comfort here"

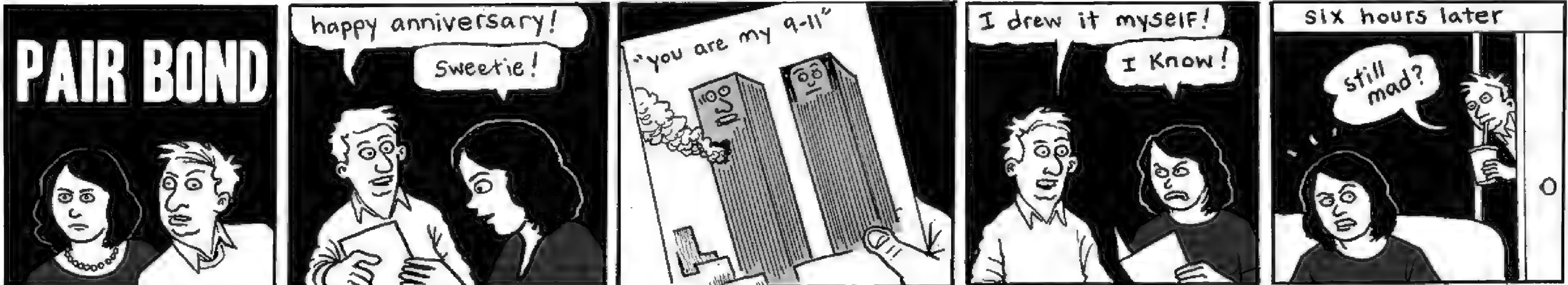
give rise to mental images of an asymmetrical haircut and skinny jeans.

Interestingly enough, in amongst the loud guitar and intense drumming, there seems to be a Christian vibe. The lyrics "Grow your message here / And let it burn across my heart / This message a fire that grows / You've etched across my heart" along with liner notes thanking Jesus Christ expose some Christian rock roots.

*The Unveiling* isn't all bad, though not particularly creative or new in the world of post-hardcore music. Those who are fans of Rise Against or Linkin Park will likely enjoy this album, but with this album, Cry of the Afflicted will probably find themselves unable to convince newcomers that screaming qualifies as vocals.



PAIR BOND by Mike Winters



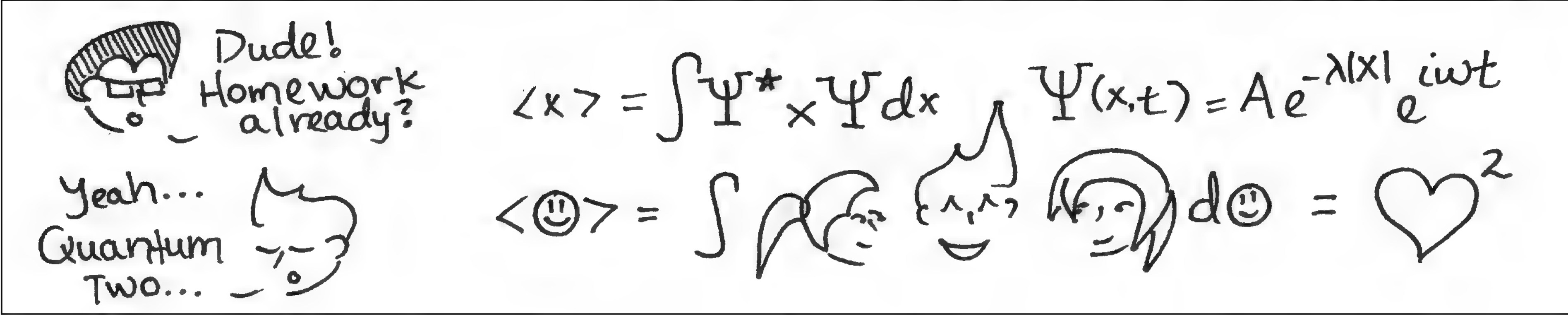
MAN VS NATURE by Conal Pierce



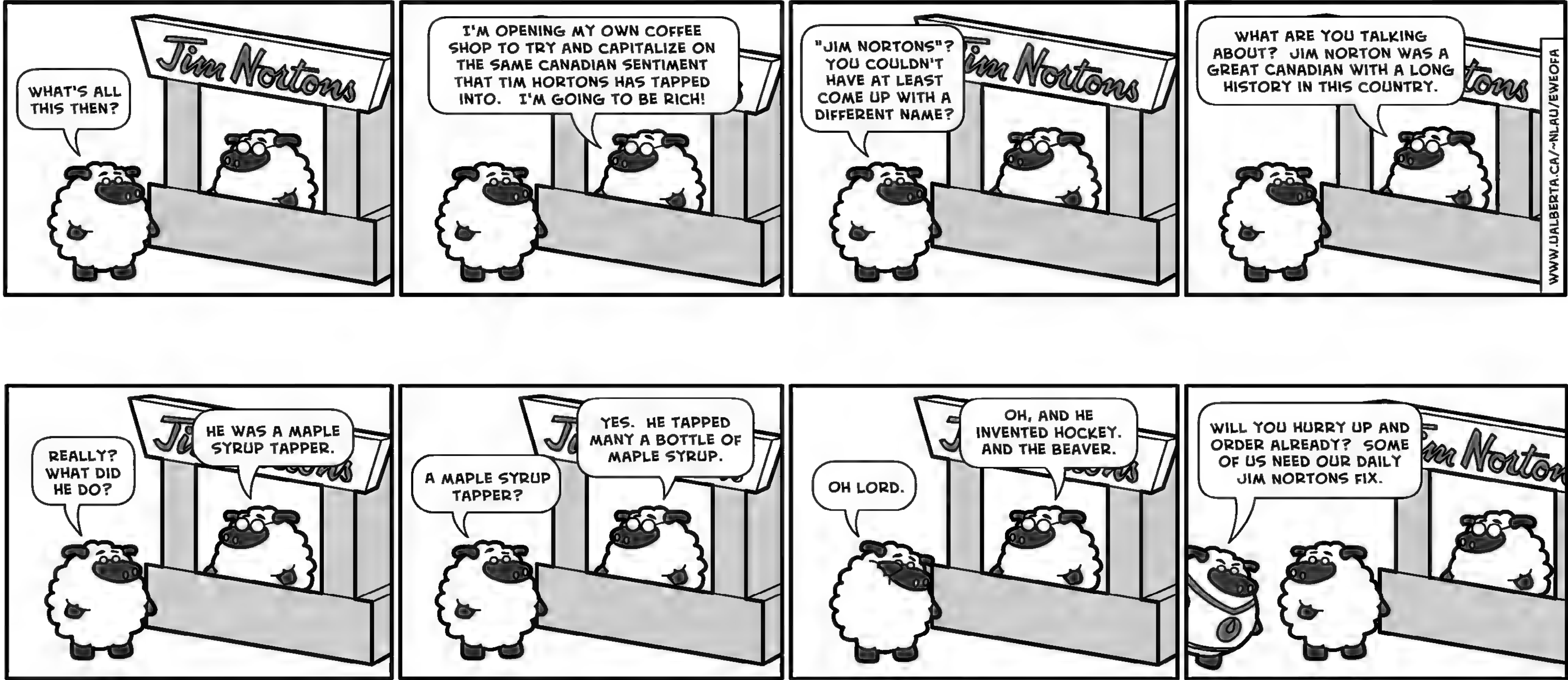
MOMENTS WITH MICHAEL by Gateway Staff



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Volunteer with SafeWalk! SafeWalk is a Students Union run service that walks people on and around campus at night. We look for friendly, energetic, and fun volunteers. Volunteer shifts are flexible, and can be chosen on a week to week basis according to the time and day that works best for you. Visit [www.su.ualberta.ca/safewalk](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/safewalk) for more information and volunteer applications. The volunteer application deadline is September 26th. Happy September!

PERSONALS

Sing in the city? Try speed dating with Eight Minute Date on 11 Sept at the Fuld Lounge. Age groups 27-40 and 42-53. Register at 457-8535 or [www.eightminutedate.ca](http://www.eightminutedate.ca).

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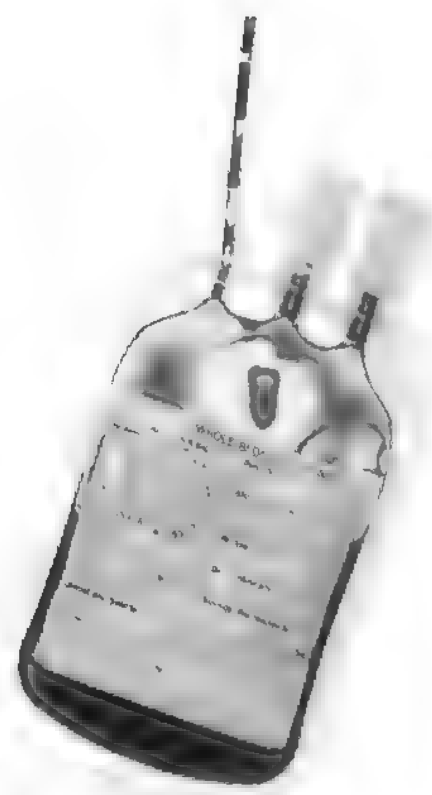
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colophon

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contributors

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Maintenance funds not yet released

MAINTENANCE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"You should really be questioning what 'fair' in particular means—nothing's actually crumbling down, but buildings still need a lot of work under that definition," Tougas said via email. "It is a simple move by the government to hide problems behind an innocuous-sounding category."

Tougas blames provincial cutbacks to public services under Tory leadership for the \$1.2 billion in deferred maintenance costs Alberta's postsecondary system has incurred.

"When those institutions don't get enough maintenance money, they will take money from their base operating funds to cover the gaps and make the desperately needed repairs. As a result, students and teaching staff—the reasons to have a university or college in the first place—are unfairly impacted," Tougas said.

At other postsecondary institutions in the province, there is no news as to when the \$111 million will become available.

"The only news that we have is the same as the press release that was released. Other than that, we haven't had any indication," University of Lethbridge Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Nancy Walker said.

Walker noted that the U of L has about \$82 million in deferred maintenance costs, and that that figure would likely reach upwards of \$113 million over the next several years.

"It's wonderful that they have set aside some money ... and recognized that there is a deferred maintenance issue, so we're pleased about that, but it really is a huge problem that we need to start tackling," Walker said.

While cheques have yet to be presented, Hickey is hopeful this funding announcement is an indication that the provincial government has taken

notice of the pressures facing Alberta's postsecondary institutions.

"We would hope this is an outcome of our ten-year deferred maintenance plan that we sent to government about both the needs and the dollars required over a ten-year period to get our buildings all up into first-class quality," Hickey said.

However, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner said that dwelling on figures was counterproductive, and said he would rather focus on what he considers to be the larger picture.

"I get a little bit frustrated. Even my department and postsecondaries and some of the folks, we get all tied up in, 'Well, is it 90 per cent, is it \$700 million, is it \$100 million, is it \$200 million?'" Horner said.

"What do you need to make sure that our kids get a quality education, [and] that the roof doesn't leak?"

NEWS BRIEF

by Natalie Climenhaga  
Senior News Editor

SHINERAMA SHINES THROUGH A STORMY SATURDAY

Shining shoes may not be the most glamorous way to spend a Saturday, but for the 600 volunteers who signed up for this year's University of Alberta Shinerama, the activity was worth getting up at 7am for.

Shinerama is Canada's largest postsecondary fundraiser. It started in Ontario in 1964 and has since grown to be a national campaign involving almost 60 universities and colleges across the country. Participants spent the day shining shoes around Edmonton and raising money for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF).

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system. It's also the most common—and fatal—genetic disease affecting Canadian children and young adults.

This year, U of A shoe-shiners raised around \$13 500—with the top group (a group of medicine students from the class of 2011) raising \$1180.20.

Campaign Director Phil Bach explained that every year there is a spot on each Faculty of Medicine class council for the Shinerama organizer. However, participants come from all faculties with a large contingent coming from Lister.

"I did it for the first time last year and



COURTESY OF ALAN DAVIES

WAKE UP CALL Shinerama volunteers raising the awareness of Cystic Fibrosis.

it was actually a super-fun event. I don't think there are that many events where you get this number of university students and spread out all over the city trying to raise money for such a good cause," Bach said.

Before heading out, participants registered in groups of three to five, and received shiner kits, free T-shirts, and a complementary pancake breakfast.

Tessi Flood (first-year Nursing),

Kelsey Dougall (first-year Engineering), Nicole Hogan (second-year Physical Education), and Janet Lee (first-year Science) from Henday credited their floor coordinator with getting them excited about the event and added that listening to Megan Milne speak Saturday morning about her personal experiences with cystic fibrosis had educated them about the disease and reaffirmed the importance of the event.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

AT LEAST IT WAS A FARE FIGHT

At 11pm on 5 September, two cab drivers engaged in a heated argument and threatened one another outside of Lister Hall. One of the drivers then picked up a fare and left the area. CSS contacted the cab company and spoke to a supervisor in order to ensure that the drivers get along in the future.

DESPERATE DUDE NEEDS DATE

On 6 September at around 2pm, a female student reported that a male approached her outside of the student lounge on the second floor at the Pavilion McMahon. He started up a casual conversation and was very inquisitive about her life. He followed her and insisted that he have coffee with her, even after she declined several times. He also told

another person that he was in no way affiliated with the U of A, but he held several degrees, including a Masters. This apparently failed to impress his crush. The campus creeper is described as in his mid-30s, 5'7", with dark skin, short, brown hair, a thick accent, a heavy build, and thick eyebrows.

GOTTA HATE THOSE LATE FEES

At 11:30am on 8 September, a man was acting belligerently and verbally abusive towards library staff. After CSS officers physically removed him from the building, he unsuccessfully attempted to charge back in. The man, who had no current University affiliation, was escorted off campus and charged with trespassing.

PULL UP, PARK IT, PASS OUT

At 12:30am on 9 September, CSS responded to the area of 100 Street and 90 Avenue after a vehicle was seen parking on the street. A concerned citizen notified authorities after being unable to wake the driver. The 55-year old female

driver was issued a 24-hour driving suspension after she appeared to be under the influence of alcohol.

WHAT IS THIS, THUNDERDOME?

On 9 September at 3am, a suspicious male was reported to be causing a disturbance in the lobby of Lister Hall. He was described as being shirtless and attempting to pick fights with students. CSS attended the area and located the male, who was intoxicated and had no University affiliation. He was found to have an outstanding warrant for his arrest, and he was turned over to the custody of Edmonton Police Service.

DEAL OR NO DEAL?

At 8:45pm on 9 September, CSS was notified that a male was attempting to sell drugs outside of HUB. The suspect was located and taken into custody after it was determined that he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. A large quantity of pills and a weapon were found in his possession. He is currently facing charges for both offences.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Natalie Climenhaga and Ryan Heise

The University of Alberta has a staggering \$656 million in deferred maintenance costs.

What building on campus do you think needs the most work and why?



Bonnie Topp  
Science V

Bio Sci because it's a depressing dungeon and nothing works.



Rory Kucera  
Phys Ed IV

Maybe the older buildings; Van Vliet needs some maintenance. Some of the residences probably because they've been around for so now, as well as HUB.



David Beauparlant  
Science V

Finish fixing the Medical Science Building. All the hallways are all screwed up; there are boards everywhere.



Sheldon Tibbs  
Phys Ed IV

The Phys Ed building. A lot of the time the Butterdome leaks. Also [if there was the money, I'd] buy some new equipment for the equipment room because all the equipment is old and just garbage. It falls apart; breaks all the time; it's like from the '70s; it's bad.



Jessica Radloff  
Arts III

Well I like the libraries so as much money as you can put into the libraries, because that's what I'm into. I want to be a librarian, so my favourite library is that Bruce Peel library in Rutherford and I don't think many people know about it really, [and] it's a beautiful library, and if the rest of the libraries could look like it, I'd be happy.



# Mason kicks off campaign on campus

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Provincial NDP Opposition Leader Brian Mason was on campus last Thursday to launch his party's fall pre-election campaign. Mason said he expects an election to be held in November, and will be spending the next two months touring the province. After meeting with the Students' Union executive, Mason stopped by the *Gateway* office to answer some questions.

**Why did you choose to include a stop at the University of Alberta on the first day of your provincial tour?**

"First of all, education is a primary concern to us—we always have made it a priority. The second reason is the housing situation. This is a serious problem [that affects] people right across the province, but it particularly affects students at this time looking for a place to live. And the third reason has to do with the environment. Youth, as represented in the University, are the people who are going to have to live in the world that we are messing up right now. We have a major policy proposal around a green future for the province of Alberta, and we think that this is a good place to talk about that."

**Students are notorious for their low voter turnout. What can be done to combat this?**

"I think that sometimes politics is seen as remote and not really influencing people's lives, and I know that the anti-globalization movement has sometimes fallen into the trap of saying that politics doesn't matter anymore because all the decisions are made globally by large corporations and the structures that are set up under free trade and so on. But I don't think that's correct. The decisions that are being made by the provincial government today will have a profound impact on the lives of young people and we all need to work to raise the awareness of that fact."

**There's currently a critical shortage of affordable housing in the province, and this has a direct impact on students. What solutions do you propose for this problem?**

"We proposed a year ago that the province establish a ministry of housing responsible for coordination of all aspects of policy relating to housing, and we think that there needs to be funding for emergency housing."

The second thing is a housing program of a broader nature so that we ensure that there are different types of housing and that the housing supply is managed so that rents can stay affordable.

It's really a question of matching the supply to meet the demand. Things like non-profit housing, cooperative housing, municipal housing, residences for universities, and so on are all part of that, and we just met with some of [the] people from your Students' Union Executive, [and] they talked about a proposal that they had made in conjunction with the University and the Graduate Students' Associations for 2000 units of student housing,



MIKE OTTO

**LIFE OF BRIAN** The NDP's leader came by the U of A campus to talk PSE.

and we're certainly supportive of that.

The third thing is that we believe the province should get back in the business of land banking and assembling land which can be turned over to municipalities so that there is a ready supply of land for new housing subdivisions. This will assist with the single-family housing market and make sure that municipalities are in a position to bring on enough single-family homes to meet the demand.

The fourth thing is the whole question of rent regulation. We would bring in a temporary program to set guidelines on how much landlords can increase the rent and [the maximum] would be the Consumer Price Index for the previous year plus two per cent. That would not apply to new housing construction or new apartment construction, because we don't want to inhibit decisions by builders to build new housing, but it would apply to existing rental accommodation. And would be in place until balance is restored in the housing market."

**The University of Alberta has begun to promote green initiatives on campus. What do you think should be done to ensure that postsecondary institutions uphold environmentally friendly practices?**

"One of the things that we're talking about in our tour is our green energy plan. It's a plan to secure additional funding by getting a fair share for our royalty revenue on our oil and gas and using that money to build a large fund over a period of ten years that would be used to finance green energy initiatives."

**What do you consider more effective: universal programs such as tuition freezes, or need-based funding for things like grants—and why?**

"Well I'm not sure it's an either/or situation. But I do know that tuition fees are far too high in this province. They should be based

on what a typical student might be able to earn in the summer. Tuition needs to be a manageable amount that students can afford, but it's only one of their costs. Often their biggest cost is housing, and then there is food and transportation, and there is entertainment and all of those things are important to ensuring that students can afford to come to university or go to college or technical institutions.

The important thing is that the debt that students incur to go to university is not a disincentive to them actually attending. Because if it is—and I think it is—then you're going to have students from high-income backgrounds over-represented at universities and students from low-income backgrounds under-represented. And that's exactly the situation we now have."

**How do you plan to take advantage of the recent dips in the Progressive Conservative's ratings?**

"What we want to do is get our ideas before Albertans and engage in conversations with Albertans and show them what we offer. We believe that they'll be responsive. For example, both the [PC] and the Liberal parties take a lot of money from big oil companies and other corporations, and this affects their policies—this affects what they stand for—and it comes down to [a] choice of doing something in the interest of middle-class families, or students, or seniors on the one hand, or a big oil company on the other hand. Who will they choose? They're conflicted because of their source of campaign funds, so what's important for us is to get the message out that Alberta's NDP is on people's side. We're on your side. And the other political parties are not; they cannot be because of where they choose to raise their campaign money."

**You have five minutes to write a haiku on why the NDP is the right party in Alberta for students to support.**

The future is green  
Education is our key  
Please vote NDP



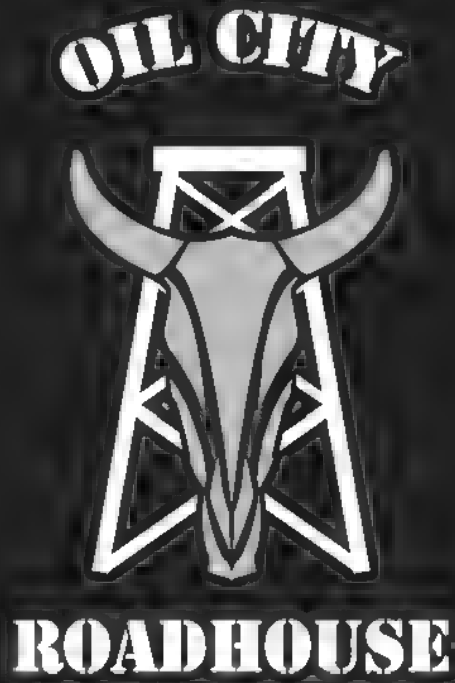
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# Wi-Fi voice networks remain a pipe dream

VICTOR VARGAS  
Online Coordinator

Assistant Professor Hai Jiang of the University of Alberta's Electrical and Computer Engineering department has tested an innovative way to improve the quality of voice communications over wireless *ad hoc* networks.

According to Jiang, the problem with voice communications that attempt to use a Wi-Fi network is that they can suffer from disruptions. Normally, delays and interruptions in these networks aren't enough to affect activities like Internet surfing; however, because the human ear can detect chopiness in a voice transmission with interruptions, small events like someone moving a computer or a wireless network reconfiguring itself can disrupt transmissions.

To combat this, Jiang and his fellow researchers have been simulating a system where several low-power probes are sent from a caller's phone to test the strength of each potential connection. When one connection

begins to degrade in quality, new probes are immediately sent to find another path in the network. Jiang believes this will improve the quality of Internet communications, although he noted that there's still a difference between Wi-Fi and cellular phone networks.

"Cellphone networks [are] personal communication—you carry your cellphone with you. And when you move, you can make a call anywhere," Jiang said, noting that Internet voice communications would still be relegated to places like offices and conferences.

That's because while this system would likely work on a small scale, using them on a large, city-wide grid could be problematic.

According to Nathan Palovcik of Nerv Communications, "The idea—like communism—is a noble one. However ... in practice there are a number of factors that make it completely unfeasible and impractical."

Palovcik said that cellular networks are purpose-built to deliver voice communication, whereas Wi-Fi isn't

built to handle heavy-duty voice transmissions. The problem is that each wireless router competes for attention randomly rather than equally, causing routers to choke up when stressed with high traffic levels.

**"The idea—like communism—is a noble one. However ... in practice there are a number of factors that make it completely unfeasible and impractical."**

NATHAN PALOVCIK  
NERV COMMUNICATIONS

"If an [Internet connection] is sufficiently fast and has low latency, voice communication becomes quite reliable because it only requires a fixed bandwidth. However, if you

pipe hundreds or perhaps thousands of voice calls simultaneously through that series of tubes, your Internet tubes get clogged quite readily," Palovcik explained.

Another obstacle for marrying cellular and *ad hoc* networks is that it would require a Wi-Fi network the size of a city. However, Jiang and Palovcik both warn that a network of that size is problematic, and not the wave of the future.

Both believe that Wi-Fi, on the scale of a city, will encounter scalability issues as the distance becomes greater. They think that even with Jiang's innovative solution, guaranteeing voice quality over large distances is difficult. This has already been shown in the cities that have tried them: Chicago recently pulled out of its wireless Internet plan because of these problems, as well as the system's high cost.

"Simply put, you cannot replace billions of dollars and years of R&D with \$50 boxes from Future Shop and expect it to be reliable or to scale to the same level," Palovcik said.

## Distribution goes smoothly

U-PASS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"That includes adding service to existing routes that go to both the University and Grant MacEwan campuses, and we've also built new routes to provide service to both campuses."

Dollansky cited the need to monitor transit patterns in the immediate future.

"The SU is aware [that overcrowding] is a prospective concern and is working with the transit authorities to correct any problems as quick[ly] as possible," he said.

For now, the atmosphere remains positive.

Dickson reiterated that any success the U-Pass deserves is due to the combined efforts of all groups involved, including ETS, the SU, the GSA, University Administration, and the One Card office.

"The U-Pass for us is a true working partnership," Dickson said. "We have been really pleased with the efforts of all partners [who have worked] to make this a viable option for students."

Peter Mansbridge is widely regarded as the greatest reporter of all time. In fact, the plethora of accomplished reporters who got their start at the Gateway is staggering.

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# Reading a gendered affair—study

Differences in reading levels between boys and girls has more to do with reading interests and different media than straightforward biological gaps

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Girls continue to outperform boys in literacy testing, according to Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) statistics. However, University of Alberta researchers want to make sure this trend doesn't become a hard-and-fast rule.

U of A Elementary Education doctoral student Brenda Kelly explained that while girls are excelling in literacy testing, boys are excelling in the sciences.

"If boys are outperforming girls in the sciences, they still have to read; and they have to have a high level of reading to achieve well in the science testing. So that tells me that boys are reading—it just might be that they're reading differently or that different texts appeal to them," Kelly said.

Kelly and her doctoral advisor—Heather Blair, who currently teaches Elementary Education for the Faculty

of Education—have focused their studies on examining what boys are typically interested in reading and how these materials might be used to improve their literacy results.

"[The research is] not on how people learn to read because the process of reading is a universal one; and we all read in the same way. It's on what we choose to read or write, and [it has to do with] what we're inclined to like about it that I think the differences are, and I believe they start very early," Blair said.

Blair, who has done a study with a group of Edmonton boys, explained that they were often very literate in digital media that are not yet fully represented in standard literacy testing.

"These kinds of [digital] literacies are something that we're just beginning to think of how we could teach them in schools, and these are something that the boys, certainly in my project, have kind of taught themselves and are ahead of the game," she explained.

According to Blair, modern curricula need to be updated not only to include conventional literacy mediums, but also to encourage boys and girls to explore a broad range of reading materials. She noted that digital competence is highly advantageous in modern society.

"I'm not saying we need to be playing digital games in class, but these kinds of expertise that they're gaining lead to other kinds of things," she said.

"I have a feeling that boys are very literate and have very literate lives out of school, but it's just not being recognized," Kelly added.

But despite the results of international literacy testing thus far, Blair said that it was unnecessary to corner girls and boys into fixed categories.

"We need to continue to broadly explore gender and literacy and not allow ourselves to kind of fall into tight, small little categories of 'boys are like this, and girls are like that.'"

# Geometric shapes help fish find their way

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Fish have an innate ability to use geometric prompts to navigate, according to a study by University of Alberta graduate Alisha Brown.

Brown, who graduated last spring with a Masters in Psychology, wanted to see whether exposure to geometry during rearing would impact a fish's ability to use the shapes.

"The idea that I had was to look at how the shape of their rearing environment would alter their ability to learn and use geometric cues for navigation."

Brown and her colleagues raised two groups of fish, one in a standard rectangular laboratory tank and one in an opaque circular tank devoid of angular forms. They then trained the two groups of fish to swim through an

open door in a particular corner of a white rectangular-shaped tank, using the geometric cues of the enclosure as their guide.

They found that even the fish reared in the circular tank were able to use the geometry of the environment to solve the task.

"That was the first really important thing because we weren't sure whether it was all of this salient exposure in rearing that was causing all kinds of animals to be able to learn how to use geometry or whether it really was something about the brain that [was] there before we even started," Brown explained.

However, when one of the walls of the rectangular-shaped tank was coloured blue, fish reared in the absence of geometric cues would depend on this feature for navigation instead of the geometric cues—even if it meant

choosing the incorrect corner.

"The second important thing was to show that the shape of the rearing environment determines to what extent you use geometry versus features for navigation," she said.

Her study was published in the July issue of *Psychological Science*, and Brown said its significance lies in the fact that it challenges previous assumptions about the ability of animals to learn particular things.

"Up until now, everyone thought that, whether or not they were exposed to the geometric cues, they'll all do the exact same thing, which we're just finding is not the case," Brown said.

"If we can find that there are these clear distinctions between [animals which are] laboratory-reared and [those reared] with a lack of exposure to geometric cues, then that opens up an entirely new line of research."

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# changes to landlord and tenant legislation

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As of April 24, 2007, rent can only go up if there hasn't been an increase in the previous 365 days.

► **A full year's notice is required for condo conversions or major renovations**  
If a landlord is ending a rental agreement to do major renovations on the property or convert it into condominiums, they must now give the tenant a full year's notice. No rent increases are allowed during that year.

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### TREND HIRES ON AN ONGOING BASIS

# BY-ELECTION NOMINATIONS

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Of course, if you don't want to succumb to reading in order to get free stuff, you can always just come up and volunteer for us. Email [gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca) if you're interested—we treat our minions pretty well.

# THE GATEWAY

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## Kidnapping not an international affair

IT'S BEEN OVER FOUR MONTHS SINCE MADELEINE McCann disappeared from a holiday apartment in Praia da Luz, Portugal on 3 May, 2007, but for some reason, we're still forced to hear about her.

The latest news: her parents are now professing their innocence and denying any involvement in their daughter's suspected murder after Portuguese authorities named them as suspects. Of course they deny it. I can't imagine that anyone expected this couple—who've been flying all around Europe since their daughter's disappearance—would suddenly confess to killing her. But why is this news?

The story goes that Gerry and Kate McCann were eating at a nearby restaurant the night Madeleine disappeared from her bed, though they had been repeatedly checking in on her and their two-year-old twins throughout the evening.

Now, I can't imagine the nightmare of discovering that your daughter is gone, but this constant Madeleine McCann coverage is nevertheless annoying because there are so many more important things to write about. That's right: there are more important things in the world than a missing four-year-old.

I do sympathize with her family's situation—but this is not an international tragedy. The millions of women and children involved in human trafficking as sex trade workers is an international tragedy. What makes this one little girl so special that the Pope, David Beckham, and JK Rowling would feel compelled to pitch in to keep the hunt for Madeleine in the public eye?

This is Elian Gonzalez syndrome all over again. Madeleine is unbearably cute, and the YouTube video montages will break your heart—especially once the heart-wrenching music starts playing in the background. But there's something sick and voyeuristic about the fact that so many people are constantly watching these things.

Many viewers make comments along the lines of “I love you, Madeleine!” or “Come back to us!”—people who will likely never know Madeleine, yet who still feel some kind of personal attachment to her after seeing how happy she looked building a sand castle.

One of these videos even professes that, “By now, everyone knows who this little girl is, and her story has touched everyone's hearts,” but I disagree.

The nine-year-old prostitute in Thailand probably doesn't care about Madeleine. What about all the other families worldwide that have had children abducted?

It's great so many people care about her fate, but let's face it: if she'd been an ugly troll rather than an adorable princess, no newswire would still be running her story off of its homepage.

Then again, if she were more homely, she may not have disappeared in the first place—I'm willing to bet kidnappers don't go for the ugos.

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

## 50 ain't worth a dime

TODAY IS PROBABLY THE BIGGEST DAY OF THE year for rap music fanatics. Kanye West releases *Graduation*, and 50 Cent drops *Curtis*, in the biggest album vs album match-up in years. Most of the hype stems from 50's statement that he'll quit music if Kanye outsells him, and, with that in mind, I hope Kanye takes today with ease.

Born Curtis Jackson, 50 Cent's whole deal has always been that he survived being shot with nine bullets and doesn't promote gun violence—he only tells his life story. Sadly, if he's being honest about his life, 50's lived one big gangsta cliché: bullets, bling, bitches, and crack all lead up to a big-pimpin' lifestyle.

True or false, such a life doesn't mean 50's earned the right to sell us boring rap, and a third album of his slow, Stallone-like delivery will inspire only the most dedicated members of his current fanbase of twelve-year-olds. They don't want anything new anyways—they want their fantasy clichés packaged nice and neat. But unlike Kayne, who at least makes diverse, intriguing records, 50's willing to give them exactly that: the stale gangsta cliché, reheated once more.

PAUL BLINOV  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

## LETTERS

### Art isn't confined to single media or format

Victor Vargas' article (Re: “The Internet is ruining your future arts career,” 6 September) on the arts and the Internet is devoid of merit.

It certainly is true that there's a glut of media on the Internet these days, ostensibly because “programs like Photoshop make producing art so easy.” I invite Mr Vargas to take his technical know-how and produce work equal to the best on display at deviantArt.com or in Worth1000 contests. I wager that he would fail miserably, as would the rest of us. Why is that?

Photoshop, webcams, and blog editors are merely tools. If their invention and dissemination make art so easy, surely the camera or paint ought to have done the same ages ago. After all, painting is just putting a brush in some wet pigment and then smearing it on paper. Nothing could be simpler. Unfortunately, there are reasons why some of us will become Rembrandts and others will draw stick figures forever: talent and training.

The sheer volume of online art doesn't guarantee that any of it's good. Consumer demand isn't satisfied by a surplus of pap; it's created by having a better product. Let's be clear: if four years of education in the Arts faculty do not enable you to produce work superior to that of the average blogger, either your education is a failure, or you're [talentless], and you don't deserve any special recognition or compensation for your efforts. Go flip burgers.

If, on the other hand, you have something of worth to offer, you should be writing newspaper and magazine articles, not blog entries.

In fact, the vast majority of the world's best contemporary art is not to be found on the Internet, but is either between the covers of books, on the silver screen, or hanging on gallery walls. Not to mention architecture, landscaping, interior design, and advertising. All of these things pay, and will continue to do so.

One can no more “access the sum total of all human artistic creation” using the Internet than one can visit Paris by searching for pictures of the Left Bank on Google.

STEPHEN POTYONDI  
Arts IV

### Ready and willing to pay for some bear droppings

I was absolutely outraged to hear about the shutdown of Bear Scat. Now in my third year, I have used Bear Scat consistently over the last few years to schedule, add, drop, and receive notice of available classes.

It has been valuable in ways I can't even begin to describe. I recommend it to all first-year students confused about their courses. The only other option is confusing and complicated for a first-time student, and even now it remains a challenge for me.

The proposal of 75 cents per student to keep it running is spare change. Many students have thousands of dollars in tuition, \$500 or more in textbooks, plus other mis-

cellaneous classroom fees. What is 75 cents? That isn't even enough to purchase a drink in HUB. It's not even half of bus fare! In my couch, I'm sure there is 75 cents that I'm more than willing to give.

If the statistics are correct—that three in five students are using this service—couldn't we ask students to find that spare change for a good cause?

As to the question of who should pay, the University or the Students' Union, my answer is as follows: the students should pay.

Does it matter if the University uses the student's tuition or if the Students' Union uses their fees? It's our money either way. It's the SU's job to use the students' fees the way the students choose.

I choose Bear Scat, with no doubts that a plebiscite would show the same results for many other students.

As for the University, they already have our money spent on Bear Tracks. While Bear Tracks may be official, it's slow and tedious.

Bear Scat is a program a thousand times more efficient and user-friendly. Unfortunately, with Bear Tracks in existence, the University would never pay for Bear Scat. This leaves our Students' Union—advocates for the students. Getting the students what they need, what they want.

SU, step up. Be my advocate. Be our advocates. I'll even pay a whole \$1.50, just in case someone

else doesn't want to pay. I choose to fight for Bear Scat, and I need my voice, my SU, to help me speak louder.

APRYL HEWLETT  
Education III

### Shout out for shy people

Kudos Kat Hutter for your article (Re: “Not everybody blends in on campus,” 6 September).

I'm privileged enough to be at the University of Alberta, but it's hard being in my third year and still gripping with being extremely shy towards the new people that I'm surrounded by in each class.

None of my friends from high school are in my faculty either, so I'm pretty alone in classes. But your article gave me a new perspective: we aren't all normal, and that's alright.

BETHANY HOFFMAN  
Human Ecology III

### U of A needs to step up its opting-out game

I was quite interested to read about McGill's innovative approach to handling dedicated unit fees in last week's *Gateway* (Re: “McGill DFUs create deficit,” 6 September).

In any school, you can expect that there'll be a diverse spectrum of political and moral views, so it makes sense that students fees should be

allocated in ways that reflect their personal convictions.

For organizations which are essentially political and partisan in nature—like the QPIRG, or, in the U of A's case, the APIRG—it shouldn't be hard to opt out of funding them, especially if the agendas they advocate run against the individual student's values.

I think it would be responsible for the U of A to follow McGill's example and allow students to opt out of some of these fees online.

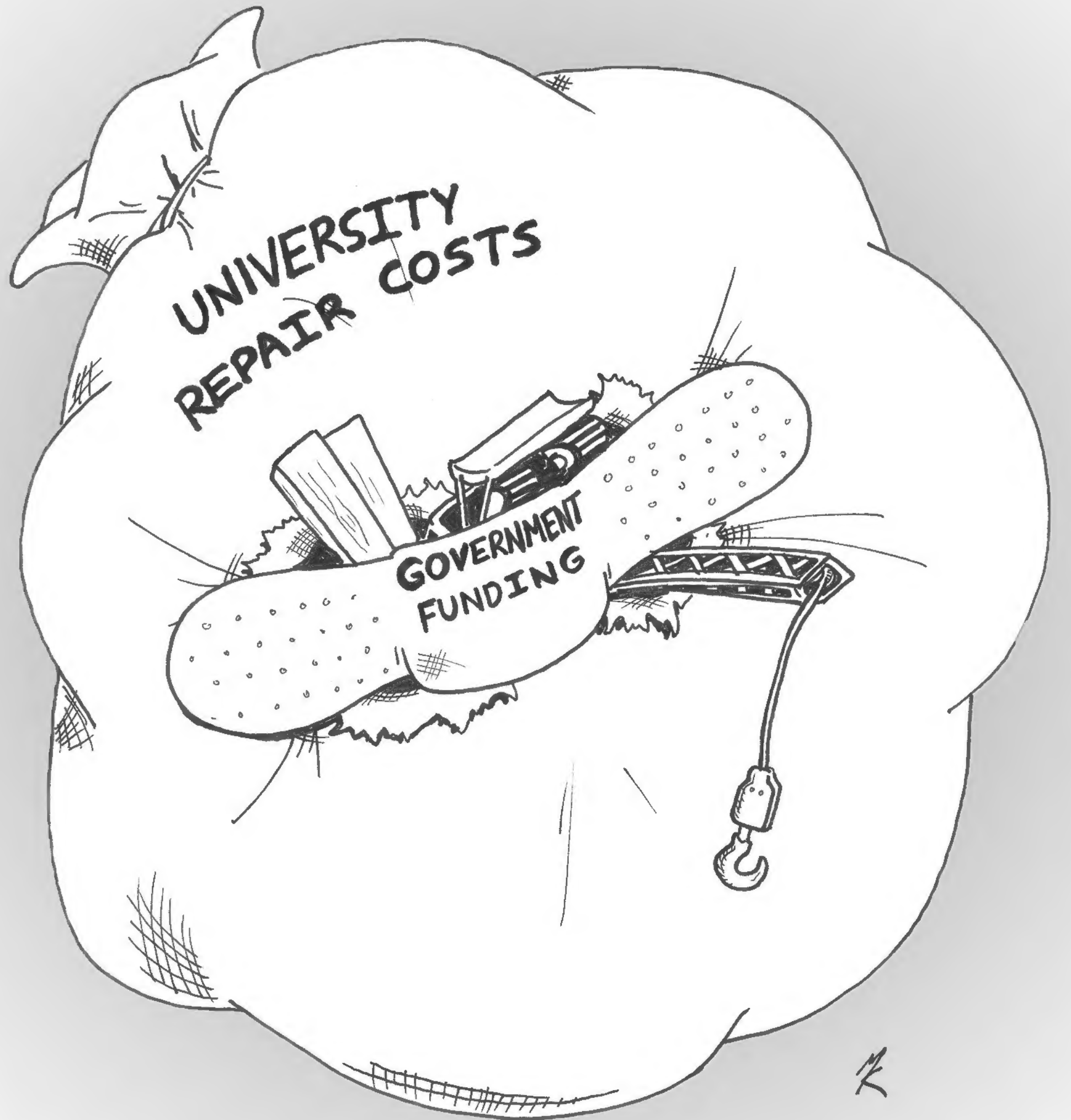
Many people don't know you can opt out of APIRG fees, and doing so is so much trouble that few students have the time to do so, even if they don't agree with the organization's aims.

MICAH BROWN  
Economics IV

*Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.*

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# Following dreams is tough work

Sure you could be an astronaut, but it's a hell of a lot easier to major in Psych



PAUL  
OWEN

When I was younger, I wanted to grow up to be a garbage truck. No, not a garbage truck man—just a truck. I'm still convinced that the most difficult man-to-man conversation my father ever had to deliver was trying to explain to a six-year-old why he couldn't get wheels surgically grafted onto his arms.

The other kids in my second-grade class had more practical futures planned out for themselves: some wanted to be doctors, other policemen. A vast majority wanted to be astronauts—especially the girls, since this was about the time that Roberta Bondar became the first Canadian woman in space. Apparently it was a big deal.

But now that we've all grown up, very few of us stay on that course—I didn't even bother to take shop in high school, and not just because it would have been too hard to resist welding a hydraulic garbage-crushing device to my spine. Sure, plenty of eager Science students still want to be doctors, but not many of those other popular elementary vocations are thrown around these days.

Eventually, the realization that doing so could result in death dawns on many youngsters who dreamed of fighting fires or policing the streets, and those folk choose other paths.

Thinking that going into space would be cool is almost universal among postsecondary students, but how many of them are actually willing to take the two undergraduate degrees or earn the PhD required to do so?

**Sure, it's nearly impossible to pigeon-hole your future interests when you're still getting crayons with your menu at Earls, but that doesn't mean that the answer is becoming a civil engineer because your dad was.**

Hell, most won't even bother with the almost mandatory military service. The fact remains that while astronaut is still probably the coolest job on (or should I say off?) the planet, the work to become one strikes fear into just about everyone.

In the end, people end up being engineers, or computer programmers,

or bankers, and there's nothing wrong with that: roads must be built, software written, and interest rates calculated. But at some point, people stop dreaming. They stop wanting a cool job and start wanting one that will pay well or is accompanied by high social status.

People start settling for careers instead of striving for them, and that's why you see so many majors change in university every year: either these people knew what they wanted to do and didn't, or they didn't know, but found out what they didn't want.

Sure, it's nearly impossible to pigeon-hole your future interests when you're still getting crayons with your menu at Earls, but that doesn't mean that the answer is becoming a civil engineer because your dad was, or not taking a couple of drama courses because you're a chemistry major—especially when you consider that doing so may keep you involved in local theatre after your shifts at the Dow plant.

And when multi-billionaires try to spend their way into a seat on NASA's next shuttle flight, it raises the question of why they just didn't become astronauts in the first place. It's much cheaper, and you actually get to play with the buttons in the cockpit.

After all, wanting to be worthy of a descriptive robot moniker like "Crusher" may not be possible in the physical sense, but kicking it with some Martians just might be.

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# Poor city planning saw our creeks paved over, but as always, nature finds a way



BRIAN  
GOULD

If you live in northwest Edmonton, last week's closure of Groat Road southbound probably affected your commute. A sinkhole formed in the curb lane and was blamed on rainfall and an old pipe. However, both explanations only gloss over what is really going on: Groat Creek is trying to escape.

What, never heard of Groat Creek? Sure, it's not as majestic as it once was, but it still flows nonetheless.

Carrying the combined flow from a network of pipes, the fully culverted Groat Creek now unceremoniously dumps a potent mix of rainwater and sewage into the river through a non-descript outfall with a viewing platform nearby—just in case you didn't get enough of the seagulls and pungent smell already.

Named after Malcolm Groat, former owner of the ravine—who is, no doubt, rolling in his grave now—Groat Creek flowed from Westmount to the river. As Glenora grew in the early 1900s, the developer donated the ravine to the city in exchange for a wider bridge at 102 Avenue for horse carts and an eventual streetcar extension.

The city initially took good care of one of the most scenic ravines in Edmonton, planting trees and building paths and footbridges. Groat

Ravine was both a promenade and host to a variety of recreational activities.

After World War II, however, Edmonton succumbed to the same dark thoughts as other North American cities. Prisoner to the freeway mentality sweeping the continent and slave to the automobile, 1950s Edmonton was faced with 80 000 car owners and only four bridges.

**There's not much we can be do for the north section of Groat Creek while our auto addiction continues to grip us, but the former freeway roadbed doesn't need to continue to scar the city.**

To meet this demand, the city eventually turned to its greatest resource: the river valley and ravines. Groat Creek was culverted, levelled, and paved over—just like Fulton, Kennedale, Mill, and Rat creeks—and entire lakes disappeared as Edmonton sprawled.

Two artificial and depressingly manicured parks were built on the leveled surface in a mocking imitation of the ravine's former grandeur. One is unpleasantly located next to the 107 Avenue interchange, while the other is left over from abandoned riverbank freeway plans. Both are overwhelmed by roaring traffic and

devoid of any reason to visit.

While the original plan to build a freeway was ultimately shelved due to protest, MacKinnon Creek suffered a similar fate, and is now barren and flat after construction stopped just short of paving. The relatively unspoiled Ramsay Creek is also gratuitously culverted for its last few dozen metres. Aerial photos show the scar, and the MacKinnon outfall also features a lovely broken metal sewer that spews rust and pollutants onto the riverbank.

So there's the reason for the sinkhole. What can you really expect when you try to pave over a creek? Water will continue to try to reclaim the original streambed for as long as the road remains.

There's not much we can do for the north section of Groat Creek while our auto addiction continues to grip us, but the former freeway roadbed doesn't have to continue to scar the city.

We could easily reclaim the last few dozen metres of Ramsay Creek by replacing the culvert with a decorative footbridge. Restoring MacKinnon Creek and the rest of the river bank up to Groat Creek would be more difficult, but allowing the area to remain in its current state as a testament to our obsession with the automobile is wholly unnecessary.

Groat Road will still be there, and we continue to repeat our mistakes elsewhere in the city. Whether it's the future Highway 2 through a provincial park next to St Albert, the twinning of 23 Avenue through the Whitemud Ravine, or Anthony Henday Drive, Edmonton's self-circumcision is bound to continue.



Wildebeests killed Mufasa in broad daylight, and just like Tupac, their killers were never brought to justice.

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## GATEWAY OPINION

Taking out hits on animals since 1910



# Osama tape should've stayed in cave

It's been six years, and he's still recycling the same tired 9/11 terror message



JONN KMECH

There really are no new ideas in television, or in terrorism. Six years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, most Americans will take time today to reflect, pray, and change the channel after watching the major networks' annual coverage. But why? We've seen it all before: the low-budget, made-for-TV movies; the excruciatingly detailed breakdowns of that day's events; the heartfelt remembrance for lost loved ones.

This is why I find it odd that Osama Bin Laden has decided to release his new video now. The tape—which features Bin Laden urging Americans to embrace Islam or face increased hostility in Iraq—was clearly released right at the anniversary to stir up controversy and provoke fear.

However, just as with 9/11 coverage, early reviews suggest that it's a stale retread of previous episodes, and that the tape will quickly be forgotten by the American public. Luckily, with the Fall TV season here and sweeps just around the corner, there's plenty else to watch besides wreath ceremonies at Ground Zero or that whimsical ragamuffin's wacky antics.

I mean, Osama's scriptwriters aren't even trying anymore. Sure, they'll throw in the necessary "infidel" and "escalate the killing" tidbits, pepper the dialogue with references to current events in pop culture so viewers know when the episode was produced, and set up a finger-wagging punch-line right before they cut to commercial, but the plot is always the same, and there's minimal character

development.

It's just lazy. I mean, they had three years to work on the material since his last video, and this is what we get? Some nonsense about the United States' global prestige being destroyed and its economy spiraling downwards? Cue the laugh track.

More crucially, Bin Laden was wearing a fine beige cloak and white turban, and looked much younger due to his now jet-black beard—which is also trimmed shorter and sexier. Maybe he uses Grecian 5.

Perhaps if Bin Laden was ballroom dancing with Mario Lopez or auditioning to be the next Pussycat Doll, we might notice him.

A lot has changed in the US and the world since 9/11. We witnessed the end of *Friends* and the subsequent failure of *Joey*. The country's housewives have been upgraded to threat level Desperate, and no less than six of its residents have been chosen to be idolized by the American public, going on to the level of superstardom associated with singing at store openings.

With all this excitement, another Bin Laden repeat isn't going anywhere in the Nielsen ratings. Perhaps if Bin Laden was ballroom dancing with Mario Lopez or auditioning to be the next Pussycat Doll, we might notice him.

But until that time, North Americans will continue to ignore a C-lister like Osama much like they rightfully ignore the rest of the news cycle, which has also been on auto playback since 9/11. God help us if

the Iraq war reaches syndication and is on every channel, all day.

I can't stand it when shows drag on forever with no finale in sight even after they've jumped the shark. But, to be fair, it's tough to maintain freshness and continuity if over 100 000 cast members have been written out of the script.

To make it easier for people, the world today can be described like the standard lazy-guy-with-hot-wife comedy. The North American public is the fat, inept protagonist and breadwinner, who, despite having good intentions, always screws things up and is, ironically, usually found asleep in front of the television.

His stunningly attractive (and therefore unrealistic) wife, constantly nagging for our attention, is our perceived reality—but unfortunately, the truth is that her ugly bastard of a father lives in your basement and will never leave you alone.

The rest of the world is like the neighbours who marvel at how this debacle we call a household manages to soldier on, but who usually have their own dysfunctions to deal with.

Westerners like our history like they like their sitcoms: fresh, yet predictable. If that sitcom ends up repeating itself, we'll probably start watching something else until the next shocking moment. After that happens, we'll never forget, until something else catches our attention.

Sorry to burst your bubble Bin Laden, but if we've already tuned out tear-soaked interviews with firefighters' families, what chance have you got?

We'll start listening to you again when some new apocalyptic event hits our screens with fresh footage of pain and suffering. But if you're any kind of a man, you'll still have to work hard to top *Two and a Half Men*.

# Sure there's a downside to rabies, but for every cloud there's a salivary lining



CONAL PIERSE

We all know the symptoms: shaky walking, angry growling, and foaming at the mouth all add up to a classic case of rabies. This loveable rapschallion of a disease has been a staple of our infectious repertoire for decades, but now in light of new research, it may very well become a thing of the past.

According to Edinburgh University's Royal Dick Vet School, if enough domesticated dogs are vaccinated against rabies, it can potentially be eliminated worldwide within a decade. And while I'm all for eliminating diseases—because nobody likes smallpox-coated blankets—I think we're forgetting all that rabies has done for us in the past.

I know what you're thinking: how could a disease that kills 50 000 people a year possibly be helpful? Well, have you ever stopped to consider that some of those people might have been evil? Yes some of them may have been children, but remember, the likes of Stalin and Lex Luthor also started out as kids.

"I know what you're thinking: how could a disease that kills 50 000 people a year possibly be helpful? Well, have you ever stopped to consider that some of those people might have been evil? Yes some of them may have been children, but remember, the likes of Stalin and Lex Luthor also started out as kids."

Rabies has also been immensely important for pop culture. Were it not for rabies, we never would have discovered what a stone-cold, dead-eye hard-ass Atticus Finch was.

If it weren't for that infected hound, we never would've had this insight into his character—unless he *actually* decided to kill some mockingbirds or something. And *Old Yeller* wouldn't be a memorable film if at the end he simply took his dog out back to play fetch.

Sure, these events are still relevant to us, but future generations who grow up in a world that's forgotten rabies will be at a disadvantage.

These children will simply think that Atticus was being a dick for shooting a neighbourhood dog who had managed to get his paws on some whipped cream. *Old Yeller* will be no longer be thought of as a tale of friendship, but rather as a sordid tale of a serial killer's beginnings. And Cujo's now-inexplicable murderous rampage—considering the St Bernards' well-known

ability to track down a person trapped in a snow-drift—will result in that particular breed being regarded as the polar bears of the future, seeing how that slot will need filling soon.

They'll also be incapable of understanding early-'90s comedies about down-on-their-luck peewee football team. When the Little Giants take Alka-Seltzers in order to give the appearance that they're foaming at the mouth, these kids will be left behind.

Or worse, they might fall under the unfortunate assumption that little white pills are the key to athletic success, and then we'll end up with Little Leaguers who are consistently breaking Barry Bonds' hard-earned home run record.

So before you jump on this "disease eradication" bandwagon, I urge you to please think of the children. The children of the future that is, not all the ones in Asia and Africa who are dying from rabies infections.

That's just tragic.

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